

## Folk Games as a Means of Education of Creative Activity of Junior Schoolchildren

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**Abstract:** This article discusses folk games as a means of nurturing the creative activity of younger schoolchildren, as well as the reasons and conditions for the emergence of the concept of folk games in creative education.

**Keywords:** folk games, activity, creativity, opportunity, education, collective games, development, experience, self-expression, imagination.



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**Introduction.** Folk games are an integral part of the cultural heritage and educational practice of many nations. They play an important role in the socialization, physical development and moral formation of the child. Folk games are usually simple in their structure, which allows children of different ages and levels of training to easily engage in the game process, learning new things through play.

Folk games have deep educational roots. They help children learn important moral and ethical norms, such as mutual respect, honesty, hard work and fairness. During the game, children learn to interact with each other, develop the ability to work in a team, learn to control their emotions and follow the rules. These aspects contribute to the formation of social skills, which is very important for the full development of the individual.

Fostering creative activity in primary school children is one of the urgent tasks of primary education. At an early age, children are especially receptive to cultural and social experience, which opens up wide opportunities for creative education. Folk games are a unique tool for developing and shaping creative abilities, as they combine traditional elements and opportunities for self-expression, experimentation and imagination.

**Main part.** Folk games are games that originated in the culture of the people and were passed down from generation to generation. They reflect the traditions, life, morals and worldview of the nation. A distinctive feature of folk games is their accessibility, simplicity of rules and plot, often associated with nature and human life in different historical eras. Folk games involve collective interaction, active movement, creative elements and improvisation. These features allow them to

be adapted to the needs of modern pedagogical tasks, making them not just entertainment, but also a powerful means of education. For example, the games "Geese-Swans" or "Blind Man's Bluff" can be useful for teaching children interaction and developing their imagination through symbolic actions and roles.

Many folk games include elements of physical activity - running, jumping, climbing, which helps to strengthen the health and physical development of the child. These games develop coordination of movements, agility, quick reaction and endurance. For example, games such as "Lapta" or "Gorodki" require agility and precision, which stimulates the development of motor skills and coordination. Folk games involve solving problems, showing ingenuity and creativity. Games such as "Catch the Ball" or "Pebbles" require children to react quickly and be able to anticipate the opponent's actions. In addition, folk games often include elements of counting and logic, which helps to develop cognitive abilities such as memory and attention.

**Psychological and pedagogical aspects of folk games.** From a psychological point of view, folk games help to create an atmosphere of liberation, where children can demonstrate their unique abilities. Games remove barriers, promote the liberation of creative energy. On the other hand, they help regulate children's emotional states, providing space for the manifestation of various emotions, such as joy, surprise or inspiration.

From a pedagogical point of view, folk games contribute to the formation of collective experience, cooperation skills and mutual assistance. Research results show that children involved in collective games develop better communication and self-organization skills, which is the basis for the formation of social competence. It is also important that through folk games, children can become familiar with cultural and ethical values, which helps to form a sustainable motivation for learning and creativity. The influence of folk games on children's creative activity. Folk games contribute to the development of creative activity in younger students, as they provide scope for imagination and self-expression. Here are some areas of their influence:

**Developing imagination and creative thinking.** In folk games, children learn to come up with unconventional solutions. For example, in the game "Stream", children can come up with unusual ways to choose a partner, express their emotions, and even include elements of dance.

**Improvisation and independence.** Most folk games have flexible rules, which allows children to make their own changes and act according to the situation. For example, in the game "Burn, Burn Clearly", children can add their own elements to the performance of actions or select interesting roles. This develops the ability to improvise, which is an important component of the creative process.

**Social skills and empathy.** During group games, children learn to take into account the opinions of others, develop common strategies, and support each other. This helps to develop empathy and interaction skills necessary for successful creativity in the future.

**Practical implementation of folk games in the educational process.** For the successful implementation of folk games in the educational process, it is necessary to take into account the age characteristics of children, the goals of training, as well as the pedagogical approach. Here are several methods that can be useful:

**Organizing games in physical education classes.** Folk games can be integrated into physical education classes, where they serve as physical exercises, helping to develop agility, coordination, and endurance. Active folk games, such as "Salki" and "Lapta", develop the ability to work in a team and contribute to the formation of a healthy attitude towards physical activity.

**Using games during breaks.** Folk games can also be played during breaks for active recreation. They help children take a break from lessons, recharge their batteries, and improve their mood. Using games in extracurricular activities.

Folk games can be used as a source of inspiration in extracurricular drawing, theater, or creative writing classes. Children can draw scenes from games, role-play situations, and describe their impressions in essays.

**Advantages of folk games for developing creative qualities in primary school children.** The use of folk games has many advantages for the development of primary school children. The key ones include:

- development of creativity. Children learn to see the unusual in the familiar, find original solutions and express their ideas; - strengthening of cultural identity. Folk games help children get acquainted with the cultural traditions of their people, which contributes to the development of respect for cultural roots and patriotism;
- development of social skills. Through group games, children learn cooperation, tolerance and respect for other people, which is important for the harmonious development of the individual;
- stimulation of cognitive activity. By participating in folk games, children show interest in culture, history and ethnography, which can become an incentive for studying subjects.

**Conclusion.** Folk games are a unique pedagogical tool that can effectively develop the creative activity of primary school students. They help children express themselves, develop their imagination and sense of teamwork, and become familiar with the culture of their people. The introduction of folk games into the educational process allows for a significant enrichment of educational and extracurricular activities, promoting the comprehensive development of children.

Through folk games, children become familiar with the traditions and culture of their people, which forms a sense of patriotism and respect for their roots. Each game contains elements of folklore, reflecting the peculiarities of everyday life and the way of life of their ancestors. For example, the game "Kalechina-malechina" (a Russian folk game) conveys the symbolism of folk dance and music through the movement and interaction of the participants. This helps children better understand and feel their cultural belonging.

Games help children cope with emotions and teach them how to express their feelings correctly. During the game, children experience different emotions - from joy and enthusiasm to disappointment and grief, which forms their psychological stability. Such games help a child gain self-confidence, become more sociable and open to new acquaintances.

In order for folk games to become an effective educational tool, it is necessary to take into account the age and interests of children, as well as the characteristics of a particular game. Educators and teachers can use folk games as part of classes, supplementing them with conversations about the meaning and origin of the game, involving children in the discussion and analysis of game situations to cultivate creative activity in younger students.

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