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#### CONTEMPORARY PEDAGOGICAL TECHNICAL TOOLS IN TEACHING ENGLISH **VOWELS TO YOUNG CHILDREN**

#### Shamamedova Zinnat Xayrulloyevna

Scientific Researcher, Teacher of English Literary and Translation Studies, Bukhara State University, Department Of English Literature, Uzbekistan

Abstract: Pedagogical technical tools in teaching English vowels to young children refer to the various methods and resources used by educators to help young learners understand and practice vowel sounds in the English language. These tools are designed to be engaging, interactive, and effective in helping children develop their language skills. Some examples of pedagogical technical tools for teaching English vowels to young children can include phonics games and activities, various online and offline games and activities that focus on practicing vowel sounds and word recognition can be useful in engaging young children in learning English vowels.

**Keywords:** methods, vowels, skills, games, pronunciation activities.

Teaching English vowels to young children can be challenging, but several pedagogical technical tools can be used to make this process more engaging and effective. Some of these tools include interactive games, multimedia resources, and language learning apps specifically designed for young learners. These tools can help children grasp the differences between English vowels, improve their pronunciation, and enhance their overall language skills. By utilizing these pedagogical technical tools, educators can create a dynamic and stimulating learning environment that motivates young children to engage with English vowels in a fun and interactive way.

According to Grant, the two following different groups of approaches to the teaching of pronunciation can be distinguished. On the one hand, we find traditional approaches, in which the main focus was on individual sounds (therefore, only segmental pronunciation was considered); pronunciation tasks consisted of decontextualized drills and pronunciation was taught in stand-alone courses, hence, isolated from the rest of the curriculum. On the other hand, in the so-called current approaches, emphasis is expected to be placed on both segmentals and suprasegmentals and tasks should include auraloral drills as well as (semi-) communicative practice formats.<sup>15</sup>

To make the research process more productive several methods of digital tools can be suggested 16:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Grant, L. 2014. "Prologue to the Myths: What Teachers Need to Know". In Grant, L. (Ed.) Pronunciation Myths. Applying Second Language Research to Classroom Teaching. Michigan: University of Michigan Press, 1-33. <sup>16</sup> https://www.linkedin.com/advice/0/how-can-teachers-help-learners-english-vowel-sounds-mlkte



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- Interactive digital resources: educational apps, websites, and online platforms that are designed to help children with vowel pronunciation and word recognition through interactive and multimedia resources;
- Visual aids: flashcards, posters, and visual diagrams that help young learners understand the different vowel sounds in English and how they are used in words;
- Audio resources: recorded audio clips and songs that focus on vowel sounds and pronunciation can help children practice their listening skills and develop a better understanding of English vowels.
- Hands-on manipulatives: manipulatives such as letter tiles, magnetic letters, and other physical resources that children can use to build words and practice vowel sounds in a hands-on, tangible way. The use of pedagogical technical tools in teaching English vowels to young children can make the learning process more interactive, engaging, and effective for young learners. These tools can help children develop their language skills in a fun and meaningful way, setting a strong foundation for their future language learning.

In her scientific article "Contributions of new technologies to the teaching of English pronunciation" Yolanda Joy Calvo Benzies reveals the importance of early exposure to English vowels and highlights the challenges that young learners may face in mastering these sounds. It emphasizes the importance of a structured and interactive learning environment to optimize the learning process. One of the research's strengths is its inclusion of a wide array of pedagogical tools. These tools are designed to make the learning process engaging and enjoyable for children. It introduces the concept of using technology, such as interactive apps and online games, to reinforce their understanding of English vowels. The author also incorporates hands-on activities, such as songs, rhymes, and tongue twisters, which are proven to be effective in improving pronunciation and fluency.<sup>17</sup> The book

also provides practical advice on how to incorporate phonics instruction into the teaching of English vowels. It guides teachers on how to design lesson plans that focus on specific vowel sounds, offering step-by-step procedures and sample activities. This helps ensure that educators have a clear understanding of how to implement these techniques effectively. One aspect that stands out in the book is its emphasis on individualized instruction. It recognizes that each child has different learning styles and needs. The author suggests strategies for tailoring instruction to meet the diverse needs of students, including providing visual aids, offering physical manipulatives, and creating multi-sensory learning experiences. This approach promotes inclusivity and ensures that all students have an equal opportunity to succeed in learning English vowels.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Walker, R. 2014. "Technology for pronunciation". English Teaching Professional, 95, 29-31.



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"Pedagogical Technical Tools for Teaching English Vowels to Young Children" is a valuable resource for educators and parents seeking effective techniques for teaching English vowels to young learners. With its practical guidance, range of pedagogical tools, and emphasis on individualized instruction, this book provides a comprehensive framework for creating a stimulating and successful English learning environment for young children.

Various methods and materials can be used as pedagogical technical tools in teaching English vowels to young children. Some of the most effective approaches include<sup>18</sup>:

- 1. Phonics instruction: Phonics-based methods are widely used to teach young learners about vowel sounds by linking letters to their corresponding sounds. Materials that support this approach include phonics workbooks, flashcards, and digital resources such as phonics apps and games.
- 2. Multisensory learning: Engaging multiple senses can help young children retain information more effectively. Materials such as tactile letter manipulatives, interactive whiteboards, and educational videos can provide multisensory experiences for learning vowel sounds.
- 3. Visual aids: visual materials such as colorful posters, charts, and illustrations can help children identify and remember vowel sounds. These visual aids can showcase word families, and vowel patterns, and provide visual reinforcement of sounds.
- 4. Audio resources: audio materials, including songs, rhymes, and audiobooks, can help children recognize and practice vowel sounds through listening. Hearing vowel sounds in different contexts can aid in the development of phonemic awareness.
- 5. Interactive digital resources: educational apps, websites, and software designed specifically for teaching English vowels can engage young learners through interactive games, quizzes, and virtual manipulatives.
- 6. Storybooks and reading materials: incorporating vowel-rich storybooks and reading materials can help children apply their knowledge of vowel sounds in context. These materials also provide opportunities for guided or independent reading.

Overall, using a combination of these methods and materials can create a comprehensive and engaging approach to teaching English vowels to young children. Tailoring instruction to accommodate different learning styles and abilities is essential in effectively supporting young learners in mastering vowel sounds in English.

Research on contemporary pedagogical technical tools for teaching English vowels to young children has shown promising results. A number of studies have explored the effectiveness of various technological resources in enhancing vowel learning among young learners. One study found that interactive games and apps designed to teach English vowels through visual and auditory stimuli were effective in engaging children



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and facilitating vowel discrimination and production skills. These digital tools provided immediate feedback and reinforcement, allowing children to practice and improve their vowel pronunciation in an engaging and motivating way.

Additionally, digital platforms with speech recognition technology have been shown to be beneficial in providing accurate and immediate feedback on vowel pronunciation. This approach can help children refine their pronunciations by comparing their speech to the target vowels and receiving specific feedback on their articulation. Virtual reality applications have demonstrated potential in creating immersive and interactive environments for vowel learning. Simulations can provide children with virtual scenarios that involve vowel pronunciation tasks, offering a novel and engaging way to practice and refine their vowel articulation.

Overall, contemporary pedagogical technical tools such as interactive games, apps, speech recognition technology, and applications have shown promise in supporting young children's English vowel learning. These tools provide engaging, interactive, and personalized learning experiences, offering opportunities for children to practice and improve their vowel skills in a fun and motivating manner.

Contemporary pedagogical tools for teaching English vowels to young children are essential for creating engaging and effective learning experiences. Utilizing a variety of interactive and multimedia resources can help children develop their understanding and use of English vowels in an enjoyable and supportive environment. Here are some contemporary pedagogical technical tools that can be employed for teaching English vowels to young children: There are various phonics apps designed specifically for young learners that incorporate interactive games, songs, and activities to help children recognize and differentiate English vowel sounds. These apps often use visual and auditory cues to reinforce vowel pronunciation. Interactive Whiteboards: Utilizing interactive whiteboards in the classroom allows teachers to display vowel charts, videos, and interactive games to engage students in learning vowel sounds. Interactive whiteboards provide a dynamic and visual platform for teaching and reinforcing vowel concepts.

Digital Learning Platforms: online learning platforms offer a wide range of resources such as videos, interactive quizzes, and educational games that focus on teaching English vowels. These platforms allow children to access learning materials at their own pace and provide opportunities for personalized practice and assessment. Incorporating these contemporary pedagogical technical tools into English vowel instruction for young children can enhance their learning experiences and promote a deeper understanding of vowel sounds. By leveraging interactive and multimedia resources, teachers can create a dynamic and engaging learning environment that supports children's language development.

In conclusion, contemporary pedagogical technical tools offer valuable resources for teaching English vowels to young children. These tools provide interactive and



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engaging ways to help children learn and practice vowel sounds, enhancing their understanding and retention of phonetic concepts. Utilizing multimedia resources such as interactive games, videos, and mobile applications can cater to different learning styles and capture the attention of young learners. Additionally, these tools can provide immediate feedback, allowing for personalized and self-paced learning experiences. By integrating these modern technical tools into teaching strategies, educators can create a dynamic and effective learning environment for teaching English vowels to young children.

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