THE OPPORTUNITIES OF THE 4C MODEL IN DEVELOPING CREATIVE AND CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS OF PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Abstract: This article analyzes the pedagogical opportunities of the 4C model in developing creative and critical thinking skills among primary school students. The theoretical foundations of forming creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration competencies, which are considered essential skills of the 21st century, are highlighted. Furthermore, the article demonstrates effective methods of applying the 4C model in primary education, including interactive teaching methods and innovative technologies aimed at developing students' independent thinking and problem-solving abilities.

Keywords: 4C model, creativity, critical thinking, communication, collaboration, primary education, competency-based approach, innovative pedagogy, interactive methods.

Introduction. In today's globalized world, the education system faces the task not only of equipping students with knowledge but also of developing competencies necessary for modern life. In particular, the 4C model—Creativity, Critical Thinking, Communication, and Collaboration—which is recognized as one of the key 21st-century skills, has become an important component of the educational process.

Primary education is a crucial stage in the formation of a child's personality. If independent thinking, creative approaches, and communication culture are developed at this stage, students are more likely to achieve higher results in the future. Therefore, the integration of the 4C model into primary education is considered one of the urgent pedagogical issues.

The Essence of the 4C Model.The 4C model is based on a competency-based approach to modern education and includes the following skills:

Creativity – the ability to generate new ideas and find unconventional solutions;

Critical Thinking – the ability to analyze information, evaluate it, and draw conclusions;

Communication – the ability to express ideas effectively in oral and written forms;

Collaboration – the ability to work in a team and achieve common goals.

These competencies are closely interconnected and contribute to students' personal and academic development.

Opportunities for developing creative thinking.To develop creative thinking in primary school students, it is important to create problem situations, organize project-based activities, and use creative tasks during the educational process.

The following methods are considered effective:

"Brainstorming" method;

"Cluster" method;

"Cinquain" technology;

Storytelling;

Role-playing activities.

These methods broaden students' imagination and encourage them to generate new ideas.

Formation of critical thinking skills**.**Critical thinking enables students to analyze information, identify causes and consequences of problems, and make well-grounded decisions.

The following methods are effective in primary education:

"INSERT" method;

"KWL" chart (Know – Want to know – Learned);
"FSMU" technology;
"Venn Diagram";
"Why?" question chain.

These methods develop students' logical and analytical thinking abilities.

Mechanisms for Implementing the 4C Model in Practice.For the effective application of the 4C model in primary education, it is necessary to:

1. Improve curricula based on a competency-based approach;
2. Use interactive and problem-based teaching methods;
3. Integrate digital technologies into the educational process;
4. Organize project and research activities;
5. Widely apply collaborative learning technologies.

Such an approach increases students' activity and contributes to their development as independent and free-thinking individuals.

Research results and discussion.Pedagogical observations show that lessons organized on the basis of the 4C model increase students' interest in learning, develop their creative approaches, and improve their ability to solve problems independently. Moreover, group work contributes to the development of communication competencies and collaboration culture.

As a result, students' abilities to justify their opinions, participate in discussions, and propose innovative ideas significantly improve.

Conclusion.In conclusion, the 4C model is an effective pedagogical tool for developing creative and critical thinking skills among primary school students. The educational process organized on the basis of this model enhances students' independent thinking, problem-solving abilities, communication culture, and teamwork competencies. Therefore, the widespread use of the 4C model in primary education practice serves as one of the important factors in improving the quality of education.

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