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# Some Measures to Advance the Positiveness of Preschool Children in Shaping Activities

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**ABSTRACT:** Shaping activities is an artistic learning activity. In preschool, shaping activities include activities such as drawing, molding, cutting, tearing, pasting, assembling... This activity has a great effect in educating and forming the personality of preschool children, form in children love for people, love for nature, love for life, love for beauty. Therefore, preschool teachers need to have measures to help children positive participate in activities, bringing them emotions, excitement and passion to implement their ideas.

**KEYWORDS:** preschool children, positive, shaping activities

# I. INTRODUCTION

In the preschool education program, shaping activities play a very important role, as a basic means for aesthetic education and comprehensive education for children right from the first years of life. This is one of the most attractive activities for preschoolers, it helps children learn, discover and vividly express what they see in the world around them, what moves them strongly. And cause children positive emotions and feelings.

Through shaping activities, children are provided with basic knowledge about shaping to help them expand their understanding, develop their perceptual abilities, form their thinking abilities, and develop, emotions, especially aesthetic development. In the current context of teaching innovation, it is a necessary requirement for preschool teachers to have measures to organize creative activities to promote children's positivity.

# **II. RESEARCH RESULTS**

# 2.1. Concept

Shaping activities is an artistic creative activity belongs to the field of shaping arts, studying the rules and methods of creating beauty by: points, lines, shapes, arrays, blocks, colors... The result of the activity is beauty from works or visual products that reflect the personal values of the creative subject. The products of the activities ensure novelty, actively contributing to improving and improving social life both spiritually and materially. (Chu Anh Son, 2023).

Shaping activities include the following types of activities:

- Drawing: Drawing is to create images of things on a flat surface using lines and colors. A drawing is a collection of lines and colors according to the principle of fixed painting on a flat surface, reflecting the shape of a certain object in nature.
- Squeeze: Squeeze is a form of activity where children use force with their hands to change the shape of soft, flexible materials to create the image of a cubic object according to the intended model.
- Cutting, tearing and pasting: Cutting, tearing and pasting is the activity of pressing thin, soft material edges together into folds, many times to general image of an object. Teaching children to create pictures from pieces of colored paper pasted on background paper is called tear-and-paste or collage (pieces of paper cut with scissors are called cutting and pasted paintings, pieces of paper torn by hand are called tearing and pasted paintings).
  - Paper folding: Teach children to fold basic paper folds to create the shape of objects let children play.
- Puzzle: Teach children to use raw materials such as seeds, leaves, sticks... to form basic shapes and combine them to create the shape of objects.

#### 2.2. The role of shaping activities for preschool children

Shaping activities are a means of aesthetic education for children. Children recognize beauty and express emotions before beauty, develop aesthetic taste and creative ability. During the process of participating in shaping activities, children's understanding of shapes, sizes, and colors increases. The color of the object's position in space... increases. At the same time, children's psychological activities are promoted, trained and developed such as the ability to observe, analyze and synthesize, compare, remember, imagine, and visualize and think.

Children's language also develops, their vocabulary becomes richer thanks to the process of analyzing, evaluating objects, and commenting on their and your products.

Form in children good qualities such as positivity, self-control, knowing how to listen and perform tasks, knowing how to carry out work to the end, knowing how to overcome difficulties, and helping friends

Children know how to use some active tools (pencils, brushes, scissors), which also promotes children's intellectual development. In addition, children's participation in preparing and cleaning up supplies after school has the effect of forming a love of labor.

#### 2.3. Content of shaping activities for preschool children

According to author Le Thanh Thuy: "The content of visual arts activities in preschools is considered a system of educational tasks and develops children's aesthetic perception ability, reflecting the outside world through The process of active operation with diverse sources of media and shaping materials". (Le Thanh Thuy, 2004)

The content of shaping activities includes:

- Specialized capabilities for shaping activities
- Special knowledge for shaping activities
- Specialized skills for shaping activities

The content of shaping activities for preschool children in the 2021 Preschool Education program is determined as follows:

- Content of shaping activities for children under for 3 years old: Drawing, tearing and pasting, looking at pictures.
- Content of image-making activities for children 3 6 years old: Feel and express emotions before the beauty of objects and phenomena in nature, life and art; Some skills in shaping activities; Express your creativity when participating in shaping activities.

# 2.4. Current status of children's positivity in creative activities at some preschools in Binh Duong province

To study the current state of children's positivity in creative activities (drawing, sculpting, cutting, pasting, etc.) at some preschools in Binh Duong province, we used a questionnaire to poll 105 preschool children. Preschool teachers are teaching classes at 7 preschools in Binh Duong province. In addition, I also used other methods during the survey to confirm the results from the referendum: interviews, observations of children participating in creative activities. The results of the survey on the current situation show that all teachers realize the importance of promoting children's active participation in shaping activities. This is extremely necessary and important. Current results on children's level of active participation and skill in shaping activities such as:

| Serial | Skill   | Very     | High | Medium | Low | Very low |
|--------|---|----------|------|--------|-----|----------|
|        |   | high (%) | (%)  | (%)    | (%) | (%)      |
| 1      | Use pencils, crayons, modeling clay, scissors | 28       | 37   | 31     | 7   | 2        |
| 2      | Observe and analyze samples                   | 17       | 33   | 63     | 19  | 8        |
| 3      | Use lines, shapes, geometric shapes           | 24       | 28   | 33     | 13  | 7        |
| 4      | Arrange the layout                            | 14       | 31   | 42     | 12  | 6        |
| 5      | Color coordination                            | 21       | 32   | 35     | 13  | 5        |

Regarding children's shaping skills, the survey results show that the skills to use tools such as pencils, crayons, modeling clay, scissors... and the skills to use lines, shapes, geometric shapes... performing shaping tasks accounts for a high rate. However, in terms of observation skills, sample analysis, and product layout arrangement, the rate isn't high. Children do not yet know how to observe and analyze sample products to form symbols about things. The layout of product is not harmonious or balanced.

| Serial | Criteria  | Very high | High | Medium | Low  | Very low |
|--------|---|-----------|------|--------|------|----------|
|        |   | (%)       | (%)  | (%)    | (%)  | (%)      |
| 1      | Children are interested and voluntarily participate in activities | 6.7       | 23.8 | 61.9   | 5.7  | 1.9      |
| 2      | Focus on product implementation                                   | 11.5      | 52.4 | 18.1   | 12.4 | 5.5      |
| 3      | Proactively carry out tasks without needing reminders             | 18.1      | 20.0 | 43.8   | 13.3 | 4.8      |
| 4      | Completed product   | 21.9      | 40.9 | 29.5   | 6.7  | 1.0      |
| 5      | Comply with the teacher's requests                                | 20.9      | 53.3 | 20.1   | 3.8  | 1.9      |
| 6      | Products show creativity  | 11.4      | 25.7 | 47.6   | 10.5 | 4.8      |

The results show that the percentage of children interested in participating in drawing, squeeze, cutting, tearing and pasting activities... is not high (the high and very high rate is only 30.5%). The number of children who need to be reminded to do activities is still high. At the same time, the percentage of children who are not interested in activities is high, so the level of creativity expressed in children's products is still low. Therefore, it is necessary to have measures to increase children's active participation in various types of creative activities.

# 2.5. Measures to increase positivity of preschool children in shaping activities

With the above contents of shaping activities and the benefits that shaping activities bring to children, preschool teachers need to have appropriate measures to enhance them active participation in activities such as:

# 2.5.1. Measures: Create a favorable operating environment to promote children's positivity.

For preschool children, play is the main activity. A beautiful classroom environment is a factor that directly impacts children every day. A space with rich colors will help children shape their aesthetics. In order for children to develop their shaping skills and meet current educational needs, teachers regularly change the outside of the classroom environment and inside of the classroom environment according to the theme of creating new spaces and decorating creative shaping corners. Eye - catching but not far from educational goals so that children are interested in participating.

#### \* Environment inside the classroom:

Decorate the classroom, collect different materials, and arrange diverse and rich corners suitable for children. In particular, the shaping corner is designed to be close and exciting for children to work on

When decorating, teachers make the most of the environment around the classroom, exploiting available equipment and utensils, adding homemade utensils and toys to ensure connectivity, naturally transforming the classroom space. Learning becomes close and friendly with educational meaning for children, teacher is pay attention to appropriate layout and arrangement, to create a good and comfortable learning environment for children.

The shaping angle is arranged appropriately between motion and stillness, near the door to take advantage of natural light. Topical pictures hang in the classroom within reach of children. Pictures must be aesthetic and harmonious to raise children's awareness of picture composition, colors, and lines, especially in the art corner. Utensils are displayed in a way that is easy for children to observe, easy to take, easy to store, and the decorative content is regularly changed so that children do not get bored, giving children a feeling of excitement and desire to recreate. From there, it stimulates the desire to participate in creating art products so that the products can be decorated in the classroom. For example, in the shaping corner, the teacher and children name the activity corner such as "talented artist", "skilled child"

Regularly hang sample paintings in the art corner, save and hang children's art products in the art corner and the child's product corner for parents to observe. Children's drawings and products should be used to decorate the corners of storage boxes, windows, etc. to encourage children to have many creative ideas.

Choose a location to hang the children's products, children can comment on the products themselves, and encourage them to make as many beautiful products as possible to decorate the shaping corner. Teaching aids include teaching aids for teachers and children's learning aids. In order for the lesson to be effective, it is necessary to carefully prepare materials to be proactive when instructing children, so that children do not get interrupted when observing and performing.

#### \* Environment outside the classroom

To maximize the effects of the activity environment for children, teachers create additional environments outside the classroom that contribute significantly to arousing children's interest in creative activities. Teachers decorate the environment outside the classroom such as painting on the walls around the classroom, school, drawing on the school yard, benches... so that children can freely observe and feel the beauty everywhere around the school yard. Thereby providing increasingly rich symbols of things.

# 2.5.2. Measures: Create conditions for children to be exposed and enriched with symbols of things

In addition to creating an environment for children to participate in activities, teachers need to create conditions for children to interact with the surrounding environment, providing rich symbols about objects, allowing children to explore for themselves using senses, your own inherent experiences to perceive different objects.

In the process of providing symbols about shaped objects, teachers need to show children the outstanding features and interesting beauties that are close to them. At the same time, help children find the unique and common characteristics of phenomena of the same group and type. From there, help children find ways to express their ideas. For example, in the preschool theme, the activity "Drawing a picture of a flower garden in the school yard" has tall flowers, low flowers, round-petaled flowers, long-petaled flowers, and flowers of different colors. Before the shaping activity takes place, the teacher lets the children see the real flower garden so that when creating the pictures, the children will know how to use skills and ways to color and combine colors more vividly and beautifully than just looking at them.

# 2.5.3. Measures: Increase making of utensils and toys to serve shaping activities

In order for children to be interested in shaping activities, materials are indispensable. children want to create beautiful, creative products in addition to using purchased tools, materials and collecting waste materials or natural materials to increase the variety of materials and diversity.

Teachers propagate and mobilize parents of the class during pick-up and drop-off hours to donate materials such as: pictures, old newspapers, toilet paper rolls, candy boxes, cans, storage boxes, bottle caps, etc. ... seemingly discarded materials are an extremely rich treasure trove of materials that children can use as materials for shaping activities. Note that when collecting and selecting materials, they must be clean, dry, and arrange items neatly so that children can easily see them and use them when needed.

From waste materials such as paper cores, cut into flower shapes, heart shapes, star shapes or circles... so that they can be used to create different shapes in watercolor printing activities. Cotton swabs can replace brushes when drawing to make a difference. For example, in the topic "Preschool" in the activity "Drawing a picture of a flower garden in the school yard", children can use a variety of materials such as paper cores, cotton swabs, flower-shaped sponges, etc. to Children freely choose materials to help them create creative flower garden paintings. Or from seemingly discarded ingredients like bean residue combined with watercolor and decorative materials like pebbles, leaves... children create animal pictures with their own hands, helping them become skillful., more flexible, children's imagination is richer.

Using leftover paper and old calendars, teachers help children make books, then let them collect pictures to cut or tear and paste, each child feels the beauty of their own book.

If recycled materials are abundant, natural materials are equally diverse. Teachers and children collect other natural materials such as: grains, twigs, dry leaves, all kinds of seed shells, eggshells, wool, straw fibers... From pumpkin seeds and sunflower seeds combined with drinking straws, beautiful flower paintings made from seeds can also be created... The diversity of shaping materials will increase children's interest, children can easily choose their own way of expression and create a means of creating suitable for their abilities. Children can unleash their imagination and creativity with natural materials.

Clay molding activities that require the teacher to prepare clay and take advantage of naturally available materials such as mussel shells, styrofoam, and sunflower seed shells, so that when children shape, they can combine the Scraps make children's works more lively and creative. For example, on the topic of natural phenomena, the activity of creating clouds with cotton, in addition to preparing colorful cotton for children to shape clouds, collect materials such as bottle caps for children to creatively make the sun. Straws to make rain, yarn to make rainbows

In addition, children also use seeds to create products of their choice. So, collecting creative materials and supplies has contributed to helping children develop imaginative thinking and creativity.

#### 2.5.4. Measures: Teachers are flexible in using many different forms

Teachers flexibly organize children to participate in shaping activities through many different genres and forms. Organize different types of activities for children to participate in such as shaping activities according to the model, shaping according by topic, shaping freely, decorating and in many different forms such as shaping in class, shaping outside of class, shaping in groups... For example, on the same animal theme, teachers let children do many different types of activities such as: molding chicks, drawing roosters, drawing chickens, tearing and gluing rabbits... Organize shaping activities according to group: Activities to create conditions for many children to participate in creating products. For example, during an hour of drawing, prepare a lot of materials for children to make, ome children combine hand prints to create a picture.

# 2.5.5. Measures: Incorporate shaping tasks into other activities

Shaping activities is a very important activity in children's daily activities because children can perform shaping tasks anytime, anywhere. The first is outdoor activities, In this activity, teacher can combine shaping activities into purposeful activities or play freely by using chalk to draw as desired on the brick floor, making toys with materials. Natural locally available materials such as: gravel, clam shells, leaves, twigs,... create very cute and funny pictures of flowers. At times like these, children are very interested and want to follow their teachers, even though the number of children can do very small, but it creates curiosity and a desire to explore. For example children pick up many types of leaves, or from jackfruit leaves and fallen almond leaves along with string, they can create funny buffaloes.

Next is the play activity in the corners. In this activity, children are free to choose a play corner at the shaping corner, children draw, sculpt, cut, tear, paste, make toys,... according to their preferences.

In the afternoon activities, teachers can also combine shaping activities such as re-doing shaping activities that children have not completed or letting children make flowers through learning and movement games, for example in afternoon review time for children to make paintings for their mothers and aunts, and organize a contest to vote for talented artists of the class.

In addition, in other learning activities such as In activities to get acquainted with Math, children can draw or color empty numbers,... In activities to get acquainted with literary works, children can color the characters in the story or tear and paste the characters your child likes. Activities to familiarize children with letters by coloring empty letters or writing letters. Science discovery activities for children to draw animals, trees, flowers, vehicles,

# 2.5.6. Measures: Do a good job of propaganda and coordination with parents

To create an environment for children to become familiar with shaping activities, teachers coordinate with parents so that parents clearly understand the roles and responsibilities of family and school.

Teachers coordinate with parents to observe which skills children are weak in. Teachers discuss with parents during pick-up and drop-off times so that parents can promptly grasp and train their children further at home and come up with ways to further practice children's shaping skills. For example, in the topic of the child's beloved family, the drawing activity "Family members" had some people's people-drawing skills being weak, so at the end of the day, during drop-off time, Teachers also discussed with the parents and asked them to help. Parents practice drawing skills for children at home. At the same time, the teacher also stimulates the children in advance by asking them, "What picture can you draw today?" When you get home, please redraw the picture in class to give to your grandparents and parents!"

Teachers discuss with parents to collect waste materials to make utensils and toys such as pieces of Styrofoam, candy boxes, cardboard... In addition to mobilizing parents to support funding and materials, parents can be mobilized to spend time in class to help teachers make toys.

### **III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Shaping activities is one of the attractive and indispensable activities for children in preschool. When participating in this activity, children can develop their ability to perceive, analyze, synthesize, and perform thinking operations, developing creative imagination and forming in children skills, techniques, and perceptual abilities about the shape, structure, and color of objects. Children actively participate in activities that help them express their skills, thinking, emotions and ingenuity. Besides children are actively active, they also learn to be careful and patient when doing things. Children is develop aesthetically through observing and learning about the surrounding environment. That is why measures to improve children's activeness are necessary

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