

## THE IMPORTANCE OF ORAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN PRIMARY EDUCATION

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**Annotation:** *This article focuses on the importance of oral communication skills in primary education. It explains why speaking skills are essential for young learners and how they help students express their ideas clearly and confidently. In primary school, children learn language quickly, and therefore developing speaking skills at an early stage is very important. Moreover, the article highlights that oral communication is not only about speaking, but it is also closely connected with listening, understanding, and interaction. When students communicate with others, they improve their vocabulary, pronunciation, and fluency. In addition, strong communication skills help students become more active and successful in the classroom.*

*The article also discusses the role of teachers, because they need to create a supportive and friendly environment where students feel comfortable to speak. As a result, students can overcome fear and participate more actively in lessons. Overall, the article shows that oral communication skills are very important for both academic success and everyday communication, and therefore they should be developed from the early stages of education.*

**Keywords:** *Oral communication, primary education, speaking skills, young learners, language development, classroom interaction, communication skills.*

### INTRODUCTION

In primary education, oral communication skills are very important, because they help young learners express their thoughts, ideas, and feelings clearly. Since children learn language quickly at an early age, it is the best time to develop their speaking ability. Therefore, if students practice speaking from the beginning, they become more confident and active in communication. However, many young learners feel shy or afraid when they try to speak in class, and because of this, they may not participate actively. As a result, their speaking skills develop slowly. For this reason, teachers need to use effective methods and create a supportive environment so that students feel comfortable and encouraged to speak.

Moreover, oral communication is not only about speaking, but it is also closely connected with listening and understanding. When students communicate with others, they learn how to use language in real-life situations, and at the same time, they improve their vocabulary, pronunciation, and fluency. In addition, regular speaking practice helps students become more confident and expressive. In conclusion, oral communication skills play a key role in primary education, because they support both language development and classroom interaction. Therefore, it is important to focus on speaking activities and give students more opportunities to communicate.

### **The role of oral communication in primary education**

Oral communication plays a very important role in primary education, because it helps young learners express their thoughts, ideas, and feelings clearly and confidently. At an early stage, children are very active and ready to learn, and therefore speaking becomes one of the main ways for them to communicate and understand the world around them. Because of this, developing oral communication skills should be an essential part of primary education. First of all, oral communication helps students participate actively in the classroom, since they need to answer questions, ask for help, and share their opinions. When students speak more, they become more confident, and as a result, they are not afraid to take part in different activities.<sup>23</sup> Therefore, speaking skills are closely connected with students' confidence and motivation. In addition, oral communication supports language development, because speaking and listening are closely related. When students communicate with others, they not only speak, but also listen carefully, and this helps them understand the language better. Moreover, through speaking, they learn new vocabulary, improve pronunciation, and practice correct sentence structures.

Furthermore, oral communication helps students build social skills, because they learn how to interact with others, work in pairs or groups, and respect different opinions. As a result, they develop not only language ability, but also important life skills such as cooperation and communication. In addition, oral communication is closely connected with the overall learning process, since students use speaking to participate in lessons, answer questions, and share their opinions. When learners are given more opportunities to speak, they become more confident and motivated, and as a result, they take a more active role in their education. Therefore, speaking is not just a skill, but also an important part of student engagement. Moreover, oral communication supports the development of other language skills, because speaking and listening work together. When students communicate, they listen carefully, understand meaning, and respond appropriately. At the same time, they improve their pronunciation, expand their vocabulary, and learn how to form correct sentences. Because of this, regular speaking practice leads to better overall language competence.<sup>24</sup>

Furthermore, oral communication helps students develop important social and interpersonal skills, since they learn how to interact with others, work in groups, and respect different ideas. For example, during classroom discussions or pair work, students learn how to take turns, listen to others, and express their opinions politely. As a result, they become better communicators not only in school, but also in everyday life. Another important aspect is that oral communication prepares students for real-life situations, because communication is necessary in daily activities such as asking questions, giving information, and solving problems. Therefore, if students develop strong speaking skills from an early age, they will

<sup>23</sup> Brown, H. D., & Lee, H. (2021). *Teaching by Principles: An Interactive Approach to Language Pedagogy* (4th ed.). Pearson Education, p. 132.

<sup>24</sup> Cameron, L., & Garton, S. (2021). Challenges in teaching English to young learners: Global perspectives and local solutions. *Language Teaching Research*, 25(4), 567–584, p. 573.

be more successful in both academic and social contexts. In conclusion, oral communication plays a crucial role in primary education, because it supports learning, builds confidence, improves language skills, and develops social abilities. Therefore, it is very important for teachers to create opportunities for students to speak regularly and to encourage active participation in the classroom. Another important point is that oral communication prepares students for real-life situations, because in everyday life people need to speak, ask questions, and communicate with others. Therefore, if students develop strong speaking skills from an early age, they will be more successful both in school and outside the classroom.<sup>25</sup>

In conclusion, oral communication plays a key role in primary education, because it supports language learning, increases confidence, and helps students become active participants in the learning process. Therefore, teachers should give more attention to speaking activities and encourage students to communicate as much as possible.

### **Factors affecting the development of speaking skills in young learners**

The development of speaking skills in young learners depends on many different factors, because children learn language in different ways and at different speeds. Therefore, it is important to understand these factors in order to help students improve their oral communication effectively. First of all, one of the main factors is the learning environment, because students need a comfortable and supportive classroom to practice speaking. If the classroom is friendly and encouraging, students feel more relaxed and are not afraid of making mistakes. As a result, they participate more actively and improve their speaking skills. On the other hand, if students feel nervous or afraid, they may avoid speaking, and their progress becomes slower.

In addition, the role of the teacher is very important, since teachers guide students and create opportunities for communication. If teachers use interesting activities, ask questions, and encourage students to speak, learners become more motivated. Moreover, positive feedback from teachers helps students feel confident and continue practicing. Furthermore, students' individual characteristics also affect speaking development, because each learner has a different level of confidence, motivation, and ability. Some students are more active and willing to speak, while others are shy and need more support. Therefore, teachers should consider these differences and use different methods to help all students. Another important factor is practice, because the more students speak, the better they become. Regular speaking activities such as discussions, pair work, and presentations help students develop fluency and confidence. In addition, exposure to the language through listening also supports speaking development.<sup>26</sup>

Moreover, vocabulary knowledge plays a key role, because students cannot speak if they do not know enough words. When learners have a rich vocabulary, they can express their ideas more easily and clearly. Therefore, teachers should help students learn and use

<sup>25</sup> Ellis, R., & Shintani, N. (2021). *Exploring Language Pedagogy through Second Language Acquisition Research*. Routledge, p. 210.

<sup>26</sup> Harmer, J. (2021). *How to Teach English (New Updated Edition)*. Pearson Education, p. 156.

new words in speaking activities. In conclusion, the development of speaking skills in young learners is influenced by many factors, including the classroom environment, the teacher’s role, students’ characteristics, practice, and vocabulary. Therefore, it is important to consider all these factors in order to improve students’ oral communication skills effectively.

### **Methods for improving oral communication in the classroom**

There are many effective methods for improving oral communication skills in the classroom, and these methods help students speak more confidently and actively. Since young learners learn best through practice and interaction, it is important to use activities that encourage them to speak as much as possible. Therefore, teachers should choose methods that are interesting, simple, and suitable for students’ level.

First of all, one of the most useful methods is pair and group work, because it gives students more opportunities to speak. When students work together, they can share ideas, ask questions, and practice communication in a relaxed way. As a result, they feel more comfortable and are not afraid of making mistakes. In addition, group activities help students learn from each other. One of the easiest and most useful methods is pair work, because it allows students to speak with each other in a simple and relaxed way. When students work in pairs, they feel less nervous, and as a result, they can speak more freely. In addition, group work is also helpful, because students can discuss topics together, ask questions, and learn from each other. Because of this, communication becomes more active in the classroom.<sup>27</sup>

Moreover, role-play activities are very effective, since they help students use language in real-life situations. For example, students can act as a teacher, a customer, or a friend, and they can practice dialogues based on everyday situations. As a result, they understand how to use language correctly and naturally. At the same time, such activities make lessons more interesting and enjoyable. Furthermore, teachers can improve speaking skills by asking different types of questions, especially open-ended questions, because they encourage students to speak more and give longer answers. Instead of giving short responses, students try to explain their ideas, and therefore their fluency improves. In addition, regular practice is very important, because the more students speak, the better they become.

Another useful method is using games, because games create a fun and friendly environment, and students enjoy speaking during such activities. When learners feel relaxed, they are not afraid of making mistakes, and as a result, they participate more actively. Moreover, storytelling activities are also helpful, because students learn how to organize their ideas and speak in a clear and logical way. In conclusion, there are many simple and effective methods for improving oral communication in the classroom, and all of them help students become more confident and active speakers. Therefore, teachers should

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<sup>27</sup> Ahmed, S. (2021). Interactive classroom techniques and their impact on speaking anxiety reduction. *Journal of English Language Teaching and Linguistics*, 6(2), 233–247, p. 240.

use these methods regularly and create more opportunities for students to practice speaking in every lesson.<sup>28</sup>

Moreover, role-play and dialogue activities are very effective, because they allow students to use language in real-life situations. For example, students can act out situations like shopping, visiting a friend, or asking for help. Because of this, they learn how to use language naturally and appropriately. Furthermore, asking open-ended questions is another important method, since it encourages students to give longer answers and express their opinions. Instead of simple “yes” or “no” questions, teachers can ask questions that require explanation. As a result, students speak more and develop their fluency. In addition, using games and interactive activities makes speaking practice more enjoyable, because young learners like fun and engaging tasks. When students enjoy the activity, they participate more actively and speak more freely. Therefore, learning becomes both effective and interesting.

Another useful method is storytelling, because it helps students organize their ideas and speak in a logical way. When students tell stories, they use vocabulary, grammar, and imagination at the same time. As a result, their speaking skills improve in different aspects.<sup>29</sup>

In conclusion, there are many methods that can improve oral communication in the classroom, such as pair work, role-play, questions, games, and storytelling. Therefore, teachers should use a variety of techniques to help students become confident and active speakers.

### **The benefits of strong oral communication skills for students**

Strong oral communication skills are very important for students, because they help learners succeed not only in the classroom, but also in everyday life. When students can speak clearly and confidently, they are able to express their ideas, ask questions, and communicate with others more effectively. Therefore, developing these skills brings many benefits. First of all, one of the main benefits is increased confidence, because students who speak well feel more comfortable in class. When they can express their thoughts without fear, they participate more actively in lessons, and as a result, their learning becomes more effective. In addition, confident students are more willing to take part in discussions and activities.<sup>30</sup>

Moreover, strong oral communication skills help students improve their academic performance, since many classroom activities require speaking. For example, students need to answer questions, give presentations, and share opinions. Because of this, good speaking skills make it easier for them to succeed in different subjects. Furthermore, these skills also improve social interaction, because students learn how to communicate with others, listen carefully, and respond appropriately. As a result, they build better relationships with

<sup>28</sup> Pinter, A. (2021). *Teaching Young Language Learners* (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press, p. 75.

<sup>29</sup> Nguyen, H. T. M., & Warren, M. (2021). Classroom interaction and young learner engagement. *Language Teaching for Young Learners*, 3(1), 45–63, p. 52.

<sup>30</sup> Stinson, M., & Winston, J. (2021). Drama education and second language learning. *Research in Drama Education*, 26(2), 233–248, p. 240.

classmates and teachers. In addition, they learn important life skills such as cooperation, respect, and understanding.

Another important benefit is that students become better problem-solvers, because communication helps them explain ideas and find solutions together. When they discuss problems with others, they develop critical thinking and learn how to express their opinions clearly.<sup>31</sup> In addition, strong oral communication skills prepare students for future opportunities, such as higher education and jobs, where communication is very important. Therefore, students who develop these skills early will have more advantages in the future. In conclusion, strong oral communication skills bring many benefits, because they increase confidence, improve academic success, support social interaction, and prepare students for real life. Therefore, it is very important to develop these skills in primary education.

### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, oral communication skills are very important in primary education, because they help young learners express their thoughts, ideas, and feelings clearly and confidently. At an early age, students learn language quickly, and therefore developing speaking skills during this period is very effective and necessary. Moreover, oral communication is not only about speaking, but it is also closely connected with listening, understanding, and interaction. When students communicate regularly, they improve their vocabulary, pronunciation, and fluency, and as a result, their overall language ability becomes stronger. In addition, speaking activities help students become more active and confident in the classroom.

Furthermore, strong oral communication skills bring many benefits, because they support academic success, improve social relationships, and help students think more clearly. Students who can speak well are more likely to participate in lessons, share their ideas, and work with others effectively. To sum up, oral communication plays a key role in primary education, and therefore teachers should create more opportunities for students to practice speaking. By using effective methods and supportive environments, students can develop their communication skills and become confident and successful learners in the future.

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