

## THE ROLE OF PLAY-BASED LEARNING WITH ART SUPPLIES IN TEACHING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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**Abstract:** This study examines the incorporation of art-based pedagogical approaches in teaching English to preschool-aged children, focusing on how creative expression can support early language development. Recognizing the importance of early childhood as a sensitive period for language learning, the research investigates how activities like drawing, painting, and storytelling can aid in building vocabulary, comprehension, and communication abilities. Using a mixed-methods design that includes classroom observations, educator interviews, and analysis of children’s artwork, the study finds that art-based strategies create an engaging learning atmosphere and address a variety of learning preferences.

**Keywords:** Play-based learning, English language acquisition, art supplies, creative expression, storytelling.

### Introduction

Early childhood is a vital stage for cognitive, emotional, and social growth. During this time, preschoolers are especially open to new experiences and learning opportunities. As educators and caregivers look for effective ways to introduce English to young learners, the use of art pedagogy has gained recognition as a creative and meaningful strategy.

Art pedagogy includes a range of expressive forms—such as drawing, painting, music, movement, and drama—that not only stimulate creativity but also provide valuable support for language learning. When preschoolers take part in artistic activities, teachers can create immersive settings where children learn English naturally and with enjoyment. This method aligns with the developmental traits of young children, who often learn most effectively through play and hands-on activities.

Through creative tasks, children can explore new words, build verbal skills, and strengthen comprehension in contexts that feel engaging rather than formal. For example, storytelling with puppets or acting out scenarios allows children to practice communication while using their imagination. Likewise, visual arts like painting or collage can introduce vocabulary and concepts in an enjoyable and memorable way.

In addition, art-based activities foster cooperation among children, improving social interaction and communication as they collaborate on creative tasks. This cooperative setting not only supports language growth but also helps build a classroom community. As we explore the integration of art into English instruction for preschoolers, it becomes clear that this method goes beyond language teaching—it supports the development of the whole child by encouraging

creativity, problem-solving, emotional expression, and social skills, all of which are fundamental to a well-rounded early education.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The following materials and methods were used in teaching English to preschoolers through art-based approaches:

<b>Art Materials</b>			
	<b>Material</b>	<b>Suggsted Uses</b>	<b>Notes/Tips</b>
	Crayons, markers, and colored pencils	coloring, outloing, adding fine details	choose washable options and supervise marker use
	Watercolor paints and brushes	washes, blending painting projects	provide water cups and aprons; use heavier paper for best results
	Drawing paper and construction paper	sketching, cutting and pasting backgrounds	use heavier construction paper for wet media and collage bases
	Clay or playdough	modeling, sensory play, 3D crafts	choose non-toxic materials store airight to prevent drying
	Magazines, scissors, and glue for collage work	collages and mixed mixed-media projects	supervise scissors and use school-safe glue

#### Visual Supports:

- Flashcards pairing vocabulary with pictures
- Illustrated books combining art and language content
- Posters with labeled images of everyday items, animals, colors, and shapes

#### Digital Tools:

- Interactive apps and software supporting language learning through games and art activities
- Online videos showing art projects with English instructions

#### Multimedia Resources:

- Projector or smartboard to present images and vocabulary
- Audio recordings of English songs and rhymes tied to art themes

#### Teaching Methods:

#### Art Learning Stations:

- Themed stations (e.g., animals, colors) where children create artwork and practice related vocabulary

**Group Art Projects:**

- Collaborative tasks like making a class book that require discussing ideas in English before creating

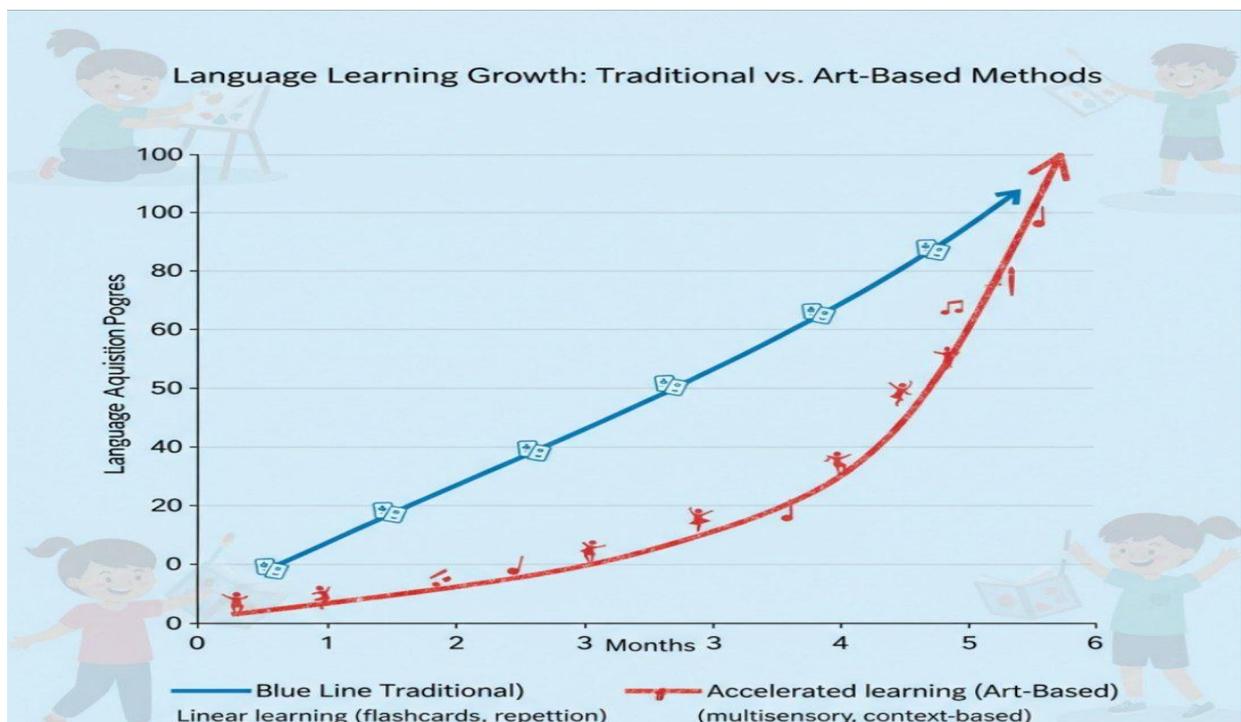
**Music and Movement:**

- Singing songs related to art topics and using gestures to reinforce meaning through physical activity

**Ongoing Observation:**

- Monitoring children's participation and vocabulary use during art activities to track progress naturally

By combining a variety of materials and instructional strategies centered on the arts, preschoolers can build English language skills in a creative, engaging, and supportive setting.

**CONCLUSION**

In summary, using art pedagogy to teach English to preschoolers offers an effective and enjoyable approach that supports both language development and creative growth. This strategy takes advantage of young children's natural interest in artistic activities, making language learning more meaningful and fun. Through drawing, painting, storytelling, and similar activities, children expand their vocabulary and comprehension while also growing emotionally and cognitively.

When art is woven into English instruction, educators can create a rich, multisensory environment that meets the needs of diverse learners. This method promotes teamwork, critical thinking, and self-expression—skills that benefit children throughout their lives. Ultimately,

integrating art into early language education provides a well-rounded foundation that supports both linguistic and creative development, preparing children for future academic success.

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