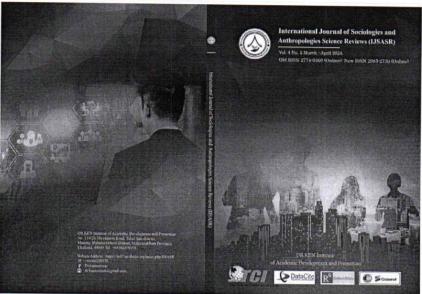


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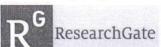


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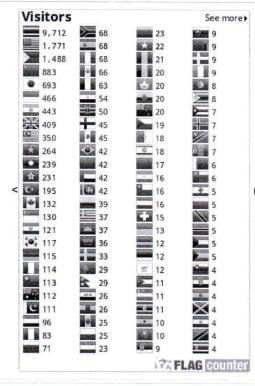
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สำเนาถูกต้อง

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Effect of Using Educational Game Teaching Methods on Communicative English
Listening and Speaking Abilities for Early Childhood Students
LiQing¹, Dr.Suwana Juithong², Dr.Satsayamon Sangway³
¹ Master student, Curriculum and Instruction Program, Valaya Alongkron
Rajabhat University under the Royal Patronage Pathum Thani Province, Thailand
²,³,⁴ Curriculum and Instruction Program, Valaya Alongkron Rajabhat University
under the Royal Patronage Pathum Thani Province, Thailand
E-mail:lq15106382906@163.com, ORCID ID:
E-mail: suwana@vru.ac.th, ORCID ID:
E-mail:satsayamon@vru.ac.th ORCID ID:

Abstract

Background and Aims: Early childhood education (ECE) in China has undergone significant transformations, shaped by historical, cultural, and socio-political factors. The foundations of early education in China can be traced back to Confucian traditions, emphasizing moral development and the importance of family and community in transmitting cultural values. This overview explores the historical roots, current practices, challenges, and notable reforms in China's general early childhood education system, providing a comprehensive understanding of its evolution.

The purposes of this research were to:1) To compare the communicative English listening abilities of the early childhood students after learning through educational game teaching method with the criterion determined of 70 percent of full score. 2) To compare the communicative English speaking abilities of the early childhood students after learning through educational game teaching method with the criterion determined of 70 percent of full score. The sample of this study is 30 early childhood students (1 classroom) of Jinshan Xinyuan preschool Zoucheng city in the academic year of 2023 which was selected by cluster random sampling method.

Materials and Methods: The population of this study is 180 early childhood students (6 classrooms), who were enrolled in English course.

The sample of this study is 30 early childhood students (1 classroom) of Jinshan Xinyuan preschool Zoucheng city in the academic year of 2023 which was selected by cluster random sampling method. Data was collected through litening rubrics and speaking rubrics and SPSS software was used to analyze the collected data, the data used for analysis were the mean value of samples, standard deviation, and single sample T-test

Result: The results of the study were as follows: (1)As presented in Table 4.3, the mean scores of students' English Communicative English Listening Abilities after learning through Learning Management Using the educational game teaching methods were 11.8 and the standard deviation was 1.69. which was statistically higher than the criterion of 70% at .05 level of statistical significance (t29 = 38.25, p<0.05). The data above showed that Learning Management Using the educational game teaching methods was able to enhance the students' Communicative English Listening Ability.(2)As presented in Table 4.3, the mean scores of students' Communicative English Speaking Abilities after learning through Learning Management Using the educational game teaching methods were 14.77 and the standard deviation was 2.65. which was statistically higher than the criterion of 70% at .05 level of

statistical significance (t29=30.54, p=0.000 < .05). The data above showed that Learning Management Using the educational game teaching methods was able to enhance the students' Communicative English Speaking Ability.

Conclusion: According to the research results, we can draw the following conclusions: The average score and standard deviation of the preschool students who adopted the educational game teaching mode higher than the standard of 70% at the level of statistical significance of 0.05. The educational game teaching method can enhance the preschool students' Communicative English Listening and Speaking Abilities.

Keywords:

Educational Game Teaching Methods ,Communicative English Listening Abilities,Communicative English Speaking Abilities

Introduction

Early childhood education (ECE) in China has undergone significant transformations, shaped by historical, cultural, and socio-political factors. The foundations of early education in China can be traced back to Confucian traditions, emphasizing moral development and the importance of family and community in transmitting cultural values. This overview explores the historical roots, current practices, challenges, and notable reforms in China's general early childhood education system, providing a comprehensive understanding of its evolution.("China's Education Development and Policy, 1978-2014" by Futao Huang or "Childhood in China" by Jun Liu)

Historical Foundations:

China's historical perspectives on early childhood education are deeply rooted in Confucian ideals. Confucius, an ancient Chinese philosopher, emphasized the moral and ethical development of individuals, including children. His teachings laid the groundwork for a focus on character education and the significance of familial and societal influences on a child's upbringing. The historical importance of informal education within families and communities played a crucial role in shaping early childhood education practices (Zhao, 2018).

The establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949 marked a turning point for education in the country. Early childhood education became a formalized component of the education system, aligning with the government's commitment to using education as a tool for societal transformation. However, the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) brought disruptions to educational institutions, with traditional practices often suppressed in favor of revolutionary ideals (Wong, 2008). This tumultuous period left a lasting impact on the education system.

Economic Reforms and Educational Priorities:

The late 20th century saw China undergoing economic reforms that spurred rapid urbanization and increased demands for a skilled workforce. Education became a key priority, and in 1986, the Compulsory Education Law solidified the commitment to providing nine years of education for all Chinese children. This legislative move reflected the government's recognition of education as a fundamental factor in the nation's development (Zhao, 2018).

Current Practices in Early Childhood Education:

Contemporary early childhood education in China is diverse, comprising both public and private institutions, including kindergartens and preschools. Government initiatives have been implemented to enhance the quality of early childhood education emphasizing a holistic

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approach that includes cognitive, physical, and social development. The curriculum typically covers language development, mathematics, arts, and physical education, aiming to provide a well-rounded foundation for children (Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China, 2018).

Challenges in the System:

Despite progress, China's early childhood education system faces significant challenges. Regional disparities in educational resources pose obstacles to achieving uniform quality standards across the country. The demand for qualified teachers remains high, and there is increasing concern about the academic pressures placed on young children. Urban-rural divides and difficulties in ensuring access to education for migrant children contribute to the complexity of achieving equality in educational opportunities (Wong, 2008).

Notable Reforms and Policy Initiatives:

In response to the challenges, China has undertaken notable reforms and policy initiatives to improve early childhood education. The "Three-Year Action Plan to Promote Early Childhood Education" (2018-2020) stands out as a comprehensive strategy to enhance preschool education quality, provide better teacher training, and increase parental involvement in their children's education (Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China, 2018). These reforms underscore a commitment to addressing the multifaceted issues within the early childhood education system.

Parental Involvement and Cultural Influences:

The role of parents in early childhood education in China is significant. Traditional Chinese cultural values place a strong emphasis on education, and parents often actively participate in their children's learning. The one-child policy, which was in place for several decades, intensified parental focus on providing the best educational opportunities for their single child. This cultural context shapes parental expectations and involvement in early childhood education, influencing the dynamics between families and educational institutions (Zhang, 2014).

Early Childhood Education for Migrant Children:

Migrant children in China face unique challenges in accessing quality early childhood education. The hukou system, which ties social benefits to a person's registered residency, creates barriers for migrant families in urban areas. Limited availability of affordable and culturally sensitive early childhood education services for migrant children exacerbates educational inequalities. Efforts have been made to address these challenges, but more comprehensive policies are needed to ensure equitable educational opportunities for all children, regardless of their household registration status (Li, 2016).

Empirical research in the field of education has shown that educational games can have a positive impact on various aspects of learning, including language development. Studies suggest that well-designed educational games not only contribute to linguistic competence but also enhance cognitive abilities, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills (Hwang & Wu, 2019). By immersing children in a language-rich gaming environment, educators have the potential to create a seamless integration of learning and play, capitalizing on the intrinsic motivation of students to explore and engage with the English language.

Research questions

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- 1 How is the communicative English listening abilities of the early childhood students after learning through educational game teaching method by comparing with the criterion determined of 70 percent of full score?
- 2 How is the communicative English speaking abilities of the early childhood students after learning through educational game teaching method by comparing with the criterion determined of 70 percent of full score?

Research objectives

- 1 To compare the communicative English listening abilities of the early childhood students after learning through educational game teaching method with the criterion determined of 70 percent of full score.
- 2 To compare the communicative English speaking abilities of the early childhood students after learning through educational game teaching method with the criterion determined of 70 percent of full score.

Literature Review

Before introducing the application of the game teaching method to English teaching at primary school, it is necessary to introduce the background information of this research so as to help readers have a better understanding of the originality of this research. In the following part, the background information will be introduced from two perspectives: the history and present situations of the game teaching method in western countries and China.

1. The history and present situations of game teaching in foreign countries

As the name suggests, the game teaching method is the method by which the teachers made use of educational games in teaching activities so as to improve the motivation of the students to learn the knowledge presented by their teachers (Avedon M.E. & Brian Sutton-Smit, 1999, pp. 32-49). Since one hundred years ago, the contemporary people had begun to use the game teaching method in teaching activities and they have already made a variety of researches about how to apply such software in teaching activities. (K. Kiili, 2005, pp. 17-23). At that time, majority of the teachers at that time found the plain presentation of teaching content could only make young students lose their interest in learning so they started to lead students to play some games in class, hoping that the games could keep students concentrated (Carrier M., 2005, pp. 84-98). As a result of the above trial teaching experiences, many scholars started to investigate how to use such a method. Their efforts could be summarized as:

In most cases, westerners started to develop game teaching method earlier than Chinese did because the technological revolution started much earlier in western countries. The first effort to explore the possibility of games applicable for teaching activities started from 1950's. The real motivation to develop such software is that businessmen wanted to provide some software for parents to lead their children to learn after class at home. (Chris Crawford, 2003, pp. 105-121). At that time, there were some software that deserved more attention: the French software company provided several game software that enable children to learn and play simultaneously, including Tomb of the Paraoh and others. Such software was quite popular in France so that many other similar companies started to try to develop more similar software (Dick W. & Carey L., 1996, pp. 99-114). Besides, the software is advantageous because it enables children to broaden their horizon and improve their intelligence by means of playing such games (Diane Larsen Freeman, 1986, pp. 44-57). Such a trial game teaching

method helped educationalists realize of the necessity of applying the game teaching method in teaching activities.

Many other countries continuously made efforts to improve the technology about game teaching method (Dick W. & Carey L., 2004, pp. 76-84). In UK, some electronic companies started to design more software that enabled users to learn and play games at the same time and the cooperation of such companies and some famous universities enabled them to make more important achievements in the development of such software. The software products enabled children to play role-playing games ad each role enabled them to try different tasks, which will improve their comprehensive competence (Shen Dan, 2008, pp. 64-65). Mentioning electronic industry, USA should never be ignored because the achievement made by Americans in software development exceeds that of any other capitalist countries. One of the examples to prove such achievement is the development of the software applicable for children's learning activities (Li Jiansheng, 2007:, pp. 166-169). In addition, some American scholars made efforts to establish theoretical systems to account for how the game software operates to help learners improve their learning efficiency. For instance, Marprensky used to publish a book to introduce the important theories and principles of how game software could be used properly to improve learning efficiency (Gao Huaiwei, 2007, pp. 21-23). All in all, the analysis of the history of game software could prove that those scholars have made great efforts to account for the phenomenon that game software could help learners improve their learning efficiency and raise their interest in learning.

2 .The history and present situations of game teaching in China

Similarly, Chinese scholars and educationalists have made unremitting efforts to investigate how to use games in various teaching activities. Actually, Chinese researches about such a topic is, in essence, practice-oriented because most of them focused on how to combine the use of games and other teaching activities. Among the researches about the use of games in teaching activities, the majority was about how to use such software in the classes at primary schools. Actually, many of those researchers focused on the introduction of the application of education games in English teaching activities from different perspectives: some researchers focused on strategies of applying game teaching method in English teaching. One of the typical examples is the one made by LV Mingxin, who summarized the principles that determines how to use games in English teaching at primary schools. Such a research is attached significance because it presents English teachers with many important suggestions about the use of games (LV Mingxin, 2008, pp. 18-23). Some other researchers investigated how to make the best of the game teaching method in teaching activities. One of the example researches is made by Zhu Yin. In that research, she illustrated the key points about the use of games in teaching with some teaching practice. Beside the above researches, some other scholars made efforts to introduce how to use games at the schools in certain provinces in China. For example, Zhong Yang published a research to introduce how to use games in the teaching activities at one of the primary schools in Yinchuan, China(Zhong Yang, 2013, pp. 19-32). In addition to the above study, Li Jiansheng provided some suggestions about how to design the classroom activities in which the games are used so that his research could provide important clues about the organization of teaching activities using games. According to Li, it is difficult for teachers in primary schools to make plans for the application of game teaching method so that they could guarantee the high efficiency of

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teaching activities (Li Jiansheng, 2007: 166-169). Actually, it is complicated to reach those goals because teachers need to reach various teaching purposes. Besides, the game teaching method may be improper to be used in practical English teaching activities and such impropriety indicates that teachers should make some creative adaption of such software until they are suitable to be used in English teaching.

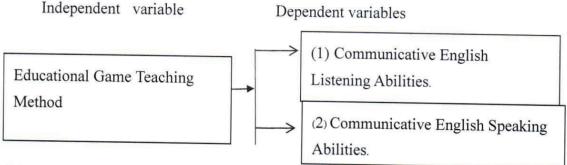
The above analysis shows that both Chinese and westerners have made efforts to investigated the use of the game teaching method in various teaching activities. Those studies laid solid foundation for more application of games to teaching activities in the future.

Research conceptual Framework

Independent variable is Educational Game Teaching Method.

The dependent variables are:

- (1)Communicative English Listening Abilities
- (2) Communicative English Speaking Abilities.



Methodology

1.Population and sample

The population of this study is 180 early childhood students (6 classrooms), who were enrolled in English course.

The sample of this study is 30 early childhood students (1 classroom) of Jinshan Xinyuan preschool Zoucheng city in the academic year of 2023 which was selected by cluster random sampling method.

2 Research instruments:

2.1 Lesson plans on Communicative English Listening and Speaking Abilities: The researcher provided an evaluation form to 5 experts to check or evaluate the lesson plans. After collecting data, analyze the collected data to determine the appropriateness and consistency of the lesson plans. If the average score of appropriateness and consistency assessed by a group of experts is higher than 3.51, it means that the components of the lesson plans have good appropriateness quality and internal consistency. After obtaining the expert evaluation results, the developed teaching model was revised and improved according to the expert's suggestions.

2.2 Listening and speaking rubrics

Listening Rubrics

No.	Categories	Criteria				
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3		
1	Listens to others'	Limited ability to	Listens some of the	Listens attentively of		

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	ideas, opinions, points of view	others' ideas, opinions, points of view	time to others' ideas, opinions, points of view	the time to others' ideas, opinions, points of view
2	Challenges to others' ideas, opinions, points of view	Challenges to others' ideas, opinions, points of view may be inappropriate	attempts to challenges others' ideas, opinions, points of view appropriately	Challenges others' ideas, opinions, points of view appropriately
3	asks question	asks few question	attempts to asks appropriate questions	asks appropriate

Improveod frm nelson education ltd. (2006)

Researchers use English listening rubrics to students' assessment and the evaluation form of English listening rubrics had a total of 3 items, and the Index of Item Objective Congruence (IOC) of each item in the evaluation form was 1, higher than 0.67, the result of analyzing the IOC index showed that all English speaking rubrics items were appropriate and could be used in the speaking rubrics IOC (1.00).

Speaking Rubrics

	Categories	Criteria					
0.	Categories	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3			
	Expresses ideas,	Expresses ideas,	Expresses ideas,	Expresses ideas,			
	opinions, feelings	opinions, feelings with	opinions, feelings with	opinions, feelings			
1	when speaking to	limited clarity when	partial clarity when	clarity when speaking			
	others in terms of:	speaking to others in	speaking to others in	to others in terms of:			
	- fluency	terms of:	terms of:	- fluency			
	- volume	- fluency	- fluency	- volume			
	- speed	- volume	- volume	- speed			
	- intonation	- speed	eed - speed				
		- intonation	- intonation				
	Vocabulary	uses a limited	attempts to use new	uses new vocabulary			
2	Vocabulary	vocabulary	vocabulary	effectively			
	Eye contact	has difficulty	maintain eye contact	maintain appropriate			
3		maintaining appropriate	some of the time when	eye contact when			
		eye contact when	speaking	speaking			
		speaking					
	Gestures and	makes limited use of	makes some use of	uses gestures and			

4	motions	gestures and motions	gestures and motions	motions effectively
		when speaking	when speaking	when speaking

Improveod frm nelson education ltd. (2006)

Researchers use English spacking rubrics to students'assessment and the evaluation form of English listening rubrics had a total of 3 items, and the Index of Item Objective Congruence (IOC) of each item in the evaluation form was 1, higher than 0.67, the result of analyzing the IOC index showed that all English speaking rubrics items were appropriate and could be used in the speaking rubrics IOC (1.00).

3. Data collection

The procedures of data collection were as follows:

- 1. The samples were taught by using Educational Game Teaching Methods,
- 2. After finishing the instruction, the samples received by using the listening rubrics and speaking rubrics

4.Data analysis

In this study, data were analyzed by using the statistical program according to the research objectives,

- 1) Compare Communicative English Listening Ability after receiving educational game teaching methods with the determined criterion set at 70 percent by using listening rubrics.
- 2) Compare Communicative English Speaking Ability after receiving educational game teaching methods with the determined criterion set at 70 percent by using speaking rubrics.

Results

Table 1 The result of comparing the communicative English listening ability of the early childhood students after learning through educational game teaching method with the criterion determined of 70 percent of full score

Group	N	Ful l score	Crit eria score	M	S. D.	t	p
Experimenta	30	15	10.5	11.	1.6	3	0.0
l group	30	15	10.5	8	9	8.25*	00

^{*}p<0.05

As presented in Table 1, the mean scores of students' Communicative English Listening Abilities after learning through Learning Management Using the educational game teaching methods were 11.8 and the standard deviation was 1.69. which was statistically higher than the criterion of 70% at .05 level of statistical significance (t29 = 38.25, p < 0.05). The data above showed that Learning Management Using the educational game teaching methods was able to enhance the students' Communicative English Listening Ability.



Table 2. The result of comparing the communicative English speaking abilities of the early childhood students after learning through educational game teaching

method with the criterion determined of 70 percent of full score

Group	N	Fu ll score	Cri teria score	M	S.D.	t	p
Experime	30	20	14	14.	2.65	3	0.0
ntal group				77	0.54*	00	

*p<0.05

As presented in Table 2, the mean scores of students' Communicative English Speaking Abilities after learning through Learning Management Using the educational game teaching methods were 14.77 and the standard deviation was 2.65. which was statistically higher than the criterion of 70% at .05 level of statistical significance (t29=30.54, p=0.000 < .05). The data above showed that Learning Management Using the educational game teaching methods was able to enhance the students' Communicative English Speaking Ability.

According to the research results, we can draw the following conclusions:

The average score and standard deviation of the preschool students who adopted the educational game teaching mode higher than the standard of 70% at the level of statistical significance of 0.05.

The educational game teaching method can enhance the preschool students' Communicative English Listening and Speaking Abilities.

Discussion

The Communicative English Listening and Speaking Abilities of the preschool students after using the educational game teaching methods were higher than the standard of 70%.

1. The educational game teaching methods can effectively improve students' performance.

Educational games have gained recognition as effective teaching tools that can significantly enhance students' performance by fostering a more engaging and interactive learning environment. These games leverage the principles of gamification to make the educational experience enjoyable, motivating, and impactful.Research conducted by Gee (2003) and Prensky (2001) emphasizes the potential of educational games to enhance critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and overall cognitive abilities. The interactive nature of these games allows students to actively participate in the learning process, promoting a hands-on approach that reinforces understanding and retention of complex concepts.

Furthermore, educational games often incorporate real-world scenarios, simulations, and role-playing, providing practical applications for theoretical knowledge. This integration of theoretical and practical learning helps bridge the gap between classroom instruction and real-world situations, preparing students for challenges they may encounter in their future careers. A study by Steinkuehler and Duncan (2008) suggests that educational games can also improve motivation and engagement, as they offer a sense of autonomy and accomplishment. Students are more likely to be invested in their learning when it is presented in a format that aligns with their interests and preferences.

In conclusion, educational games have the potential to be powerful tools for improving students' performance by promoting active learning, critical thinking, and practical application of knowledge. As technology continues to advance, integrating well-designed educational games into the curriculum can contribute significantly to creating a dynamic and effective learning environment.

2. The educational game teaching methods improve students' recognition.

The process of judging individual needs and levels is a process of judging the actual (acquired) or potential value of the educational activity and completing the purpose of increasing educational value [Chen Yukun. Educational Evaluation [M]. Beijing: People's Education Press, 1999.]. Educational games stand out as powerful tools for enhancing students' recognition and comprehension across various subjects. Leveraging the interactive and engaging nature of games, these teaching methods actively involve students in the learning process. The immersive environments provided by educational games prompt students to apply critical thinking skills, problem-solving strategies, and decision-making processes in dynamic scenarios, thereby enhancing cognitive abilities. Immediate feedback mechanisms within these games contribute significantly to the learning process, allowing students to learn from their mistakes and reinforcing correct recognition (Gee, 2003). As highlighted in Gee's seminal work, "What Video Games Have to Teach Us About Learning and Literacy," educational games not only make learning enjoyable but also facilitate a deeper and more impactful understanding of academic concepts.

Based on the findings of this study, it is hoping that with the improvement of the educational game teaching methods could be changed better. Enhancing educational game teaching methods holds the key to transforming traditional learning approaches for the better. By incorporating innovative technologies, adaptive algorithms, and interactive design principles, educators can create engaging and personalized gaming experiences that cater to diverse learning styles. These improvements not only make learning more enjoyable but also facilitate a deeper understanding of complex concepts. Research by Gee (2003) emphasizes the importance of integrating educational goals seamlessly into game mechanics, ensuring a balance between entertainment and educational objectives. Moreover, incorporating real-world problem-solving scenarios within educational games can enhance critical thinking skills and practical application of knowledge. To achieve this, collaboration between educators, game designers, and researchers is essential. The continuous refinement of educational game teaching methods can revolutionize the learning experience, fostering a more dynamic and effective educational environment for students.

Conclusion

Through comparative analysis of the preschool students using the educational game teaching listening and speaking rubrics after the intervention of the educational game teaching.

- 1. The Communicative English Listening Abilities of the preschool students after using the educational game teaching methods were higher than the standard of 70% at the 0.05 statistical significance level (M= 11.8, S.D. =1.69).
- 2. The Communicative English Speaking Abilities of the preschool students after using the educational game teaching methods were higher than the standard of 70% at the 0.05 statistical significance level (M= 14.77, S.D. =2.65).

The educational game teaching methods were feasible in English teaching, which helped to improve students' learning effect and communicative English listening and speaking abilities.

Recommendation

1. Recommendation for implication

In the three learning stages of the educational game teaching, pre-class learning in the educational game teaching is different from traditional classroom learning. Students need to know clearly that they need to take responsibility for their own learning results through self-learning before class, instead of thinking that pre-class learning is just preparation or preview of classroom activities.

- 1) Teachers need to strengthen the knowledge reserve of the educational game teaching methods, strengthen theoretical learning, improve teaching ability, and earnestly complete the course preparation to make teachers have confidence during teaching.
- 2) In teaching, the educational game teaching methods take students as the main body and teachers as the lead to complete the teaching organization. Although the teacher is the guide, the teacher cannot leave the students alone, because the teacher guides the students to learn actively, so the students become the subject of learning.
- 3) In the practice of the educational game teaching methods, teachers should guide students to actively learn the content of this lesson, and always keep supervision and guidance, so that students will not deviate from the topic during the learning process.
- 4) The educational game teaching methods can effectively improve students' academic performance in the actual classroom teaching process. Therefore, if conditions permit, the educational game teaching methods should be prioritized in the classroom.

2. Recommendation for further research

- (1) The practice time of the educational game teaching methods are relatively short and the number of lectures is limited. In order to better test the influence of the educational game teaching on the cultivation of students, teachers also need to use the educational game teaching methods to conduct more effective empirical research in the classroom for a long period of time.
- (2) The research is limited by my academic level and external resources, so there are some deficiencies in the exploration of the educational game teaching methods, which need further exploration and attempts in the later stage.
- (3) Only a school cannot represent all ordinary preschool, so the educational game teaching methods still need to be verified in more ordinary preschool, so as to make the experimental results more convincing.



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(4) My study will continue to reflect on and improve the shortcomings of this practice in future the educational game teaching activities. In my opinion, with the continuous popularization of information technology and in-depth research, the value of the educational game teaching will be more perfectly reflected in the future teaching.

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