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The Integration and Practice of Traditional Cultural Elements in Kindergarten Learning Environments

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Abstract: In the current wave of cultural diversity, this paper delves into the subtle integration and innovative practices of traditional cultural elements in kindergarten learning environments. The research not only highlights the core value of traditional culture in children's development but also meticulously analyzes its specific practical paths and strategies. Through this paper, we hope to illuminate the path for kindergarten educators, guiding them to skillfully integrate tradition and modernity, thereby cultivating children's profound understanding and love for the rich tapestry of traditional culture, allowing the seeds of culture to take root and sprout in young minds.

Keywords: Kindergarten; Learning Environment; Traditional Cultural Elements; Integration; Practice

Introduction

In today's rapidly developing era, modern technology and culture are flooding into the lives and education of young children. Faced with this impact, how to skillfully integrate the essence of traditional culture into the fertile ground of kindergarten education, allowing children to be deeply rooted in the rich soil of tradition while basking in modern civilization, has become an important issue urgently needing exploration in the field of early childhood education. This article will start from the profound significance of traditional cultural elements and delve into the strategies and practical paths for their integration into the kindergarten environment, hoping to contribute to the development of early childhood education.

1. The Importance of Traditional Cultural Elements in the Kindergarten Environment

The importance of traditional cultural elements in

the kindergarten environment cannot be ignored. Traditional culture, as the foundation of national spirit, carries the wisdom and values passed down through generations. In this crucial developmental stage of kindergarten, by skillfully integrating traditional cultural elements, we can stimulate children's interest and love for national culture, thereby cultivating their national pride and cultural identity. This sense of identity is not only an affirmation of personal identity but also a respect for and inheritance of national history and culture. Traditional culture contains rich educational resources, which have endless charm for young children. Folk tales, traditional festivals, and traditional handicrafts are all treasures of traditional culture. By integrating these elements into the kindergarten's regional environment, we can provide children with diverse learning experiences, allowing them to learn while playing and experience the charm of culture while learning. This edutainment approach not only conforms to the learning characteristics of



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young children, but also allows them to gain knowledge and grow in a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere. In addition, traditional cultural education has a positive impact on the formation of children's values, morals, and aesthetics. Through contact with and learning traditional culture, children can gradually understand and accept the moral norms and aesthetic standards within it, thereby forming correct values and aesthetic orientations. This influence is far-reaching, and it is not only related to the growth and development of individual children, but also to the inheritance and future of the entire national culture. Therefore, infiltrating traditional cultural elements into the kindergarten's regional environment is an educational practice of great significance and worthy of in-depth exploration^[1].

2. Strategies for Infiltrating Traditional Cultural Elements into the Kindergarten Learning Environment

2.1 Creating a Traditional Cultural Atmosphere

In kindergarten education, the environment, as a kind of "hidden curriculum," plays a crucial role in children's growth. To effectively integrate traditional cultural elements into the kindergarten learning environment, educators need to carefully plan and create a learning environment filled with a traditional cultural atmosphere. This atmosphere not only allows children to naturally encounter traditional culture in their daily lives but also subtly cultivates their cultural identity and national pride. The first step in creating a traditional cultural atmosphere is to set up a traditional cultural theme wall. This wall can be designed to be both fun and educational, using various patterns, texts, and pictures related to traditional culture, such as Peking Opera masks, traditional festival customs, and classic story scenes, to visually present the charm of traditional culture to children. Whenever children pass by this wall, they will be attracted by its content, thus stimulating their interest and curiosity in traditional culture. Besides the theme wall, hanging traditional paintings is also an important means of creating a traditional cultural atmosphere. Educators can select traditional Chinese paintings, meticulous brushwork paintings, or folk art works suitable for young children's appreciation, such as landscape paintings, flower-and-bird paintings, and figure paintings, and hang them on

the walls of classrooms, corridors, or activity rooms. These paintings not only beautify the environment but also allow children to experience the artistic charm and aesthetic value of traditional culture. In addition, playing traditional music is also an effective way to create a traditional cultural atmosphere. During kindergarten activity times or breaks, educators can play classical music or folk music, such as guzheng, pipa, and erhu pieces. These beautiful melodies not only please children but also allow them to experience the rhythmic beauty of traditional culture through hearing. Simultaneously, educators can organize music-related activities, such as dance performances and percussion performances, allowing children to gain a deeper understanding of the connotation and charm of traditional culture through hands-on experience.

2.2 Integrating Traditional Cultural Resources

One strategy for permeating traditional cultural elements into the kindergarten environment is to integrate traditional cultural resources. The core of this strategy lies in fully exploring and utilizing local traditional cultural resources to provide children with a diverse, vibrant, and educational learning environment. First, inviting folk artists to teach in the kindergarten is an extremely effective method. As inheritors and practitioners of traditional culture, folk artists possess rich traditional skills and knowledge. By inviting them to the kindergarten for face-to-face communication and interaction with children, children can directly experience the charm and value of traditional culture. For example, folk paper-cutting artists can teach children paper-cutting techniques, allowing them to experience the charm of traditional culture through hands-on practice; traditional music artists can play traditional instruments, leading children to experience the rhythm and cadence of traditional music. Second, organizing visits to traditional cultural venues is also an important way to integrate traditional cultural resources. Traditional cultural venues, such as museums, art galleries, and historical sites, are important carriers for displaying and inheriting traditional culture. By organizing visits to these venues, children can personally experience the historical origins, development, and artistic charm of traditional culture. During the visit, teachers can combine the exhibits and explanations in the venue to

tell children about the relevant historical stories and cultural connotations, helping them to understand and recognize traditional culture more deeply. In addition, kindergartens can also establish long-term cooperative relationships with communities, cultural institutions, etc., to jointly carry out traditional cultural education activities. For example, they can cooperate with the community cultural center to regularly hold traditional cultural lectures, exhibitions and performances, providing children with more learning opportunities and display platforms. Through cooperation with communities and cultural institutions, not only can the kindergarten's educational resources be enriched, but also the connection and interaction between children and society can be promoted^[2].

2.3 Integration into Daily Teaching Activities

Integrating traditional cultural elements into the daily teaching activities of kindergartens is a deep, meticulous, and effective permeation strategy. This strategy not only enriches teaching content and improves teaching quality, but also subtly cultivates children's interest in and identification with traditional culture, laying a solid foundation for their all-round development. In language courses, teachers can carefully select classic folk tales, fables, and myths, telling them to children in vivid and interesting language. These stories often contain rich traditional cultural elements and profound life philosophies, which can stimulate children's curiosity and desire to explore. Through storytelling and discussion, teachers can guide children to understand the plot and characters in the stories, learn the language expression methods and wisdom in traditional culture, thereby cultivating children's language expression ability and moral values. In art courses, teachers can introduce traditional art forms such as Chinese painting, calligraphy, and paper cutting, allowing children to personally experience the artistic charm of traditional culture. Through hands-on production and creation, children can exercise their hand-eye coordination, cultivate aesthetic ability and creativity. At the same time, teachers can also guide children to appreciate and analyze traditional artworks, understand their artistic styles and techniques, thereby deepening their understanding and identification with traditional culture. In social studies courses, teachers can design diverse and engaging activities

that incorporate traditional festivals, customs, and etiquette. Through activities such as simulating festivals and learning traditional etiquette, children can gain a deeper understanding of the social values and behavioral norms within traditional culture, fostering a sense of cultural identity and social responsibility. Simultaneously, teachers can organize children to participate in practical activities themed around traditional culture, such as visiting museums and watching traditional performances, allowing them to experience the charm and value of traditional culture firsthand.

3. Practical Methods of Incorporating Traditional Cultural Elements into Kindergarten Learning Environments

3.1 Thematic Activity Method

In kindergarten education, the thematic activity method is an extremely effective teaching method, especially in the practice of traditional cultural elements. By designing diverse activities based on themes such as traditional festivals and traditional handicrafts, educators can enable children to experience the unique charm of traditional culture firsthand. Traditional festivals are an important part of Chinese culture, each containing rich historical and cultural connotations. Using these festivals as themes, a series of interesting and educational activities can be designed. For example, during the Spring Festival, children can be organized to make window decorations, write Spring Festival couplets, and make dumplings, allowing them to learn about the customs and meanings of the Spring Festival through practice; during the Dragon Boat Festival, children can be taught to make sachets, weave colorful ropes, and try making zongzi (sticky rice dumplings), allowing them to experience the atmosphere and traditional culture of the Dragon Boat Festival. Besides traditional festivals, traditional handicrafts are also an important part of the thematic activity method. China has a wide variety of traditional handicrafts, such as paper cutting, clay sculpture, and tie-dyeing, each carrying rich historical and cultural information. By organizing children to make these handicrafts by hand, not only can their hands-on skills and creativity be improved, but they can also feel the charm and value of traditional culture in the process of making them. For example, in paper-cutting

activities, children can learn the basic paper-cutting skills under the guidance of educators, and then freely create paper-cutting works with various patterns; in clay sculpting activities, children can use clay, paint and other materials to create various vivid and lovely images. When implementing the theme activity method, educators need to pay attention to the fun and interactivity of the activities. Only when children feel fun and a sense of accomplishment in the activities will they participate more actively and truly experience the charm of traditional culture. At the same time, educators also need to select appropriate themes and activities according to the children's age and interests to ensure that the activities can truly attract children's attention and stimulate their learning interest^[3].

3.2 Gamified Teaching Method

Incorporating traditional cultural elements into the kindergarten learning environment, gamified teaching is an extremely effective and popular method among young children. By presenting traditional cultural knowledge in the form of games, such as traditional games and role-playing, it can greatly stimulate children's learning interest, allowing them to experience and learn traditional culture in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere. First, traditional games have irreplaceable value in kindergarten education. Many traditional games contain rich national cultural connotations and educational significance. For example, games like kicking shuttlecocks, rolling hoops, and jumping rope not only improve children's physical coordination but also allow them to experience the charm of traditional culture while playing. Teachers can select appropriate traditional games to adapt and innovate according to children's age characteristics and interests, making them more suitable for the educational needs of modern children. Second, role-playing is a highly attractive gamified teaching method. By having children play roles in traditional culture, such as ancient literati and traditional craftspeople, they can gain a deeper understanding of the roles and connotations of traditional culture. During role-playing, teachers can guide children to learn relevant traditional cultural knowledge, such as ancient etiquette, poetry, and traditional handicrafts, while simultaneously cultivating their language expression, social skills, and creativity. When implementing gamified teaching methods,

teachers need to pay attention to the following points: First, ensure the safety and educational value of the games, and avoid choosing games that are too dangerous or lack educational significance; second, make flexible adjustments according to the actual situation and interests of the children to ensure that the games are fun and challenging; third, provide children with sufficient support and guidance during the game process to help them overcome difficulties and gain a sense of success.

3.3 Home-School Collaboration

In early childhood education, the family and the kindergarten are two inseparable educational environments. To better integrate and practice traditional cultural elements, home-school collaboration is particularly important. Through close communication and cooperation with parents, a coherent and unified learning atmosphere of traditional culture can be created for children, allowing them to experience the charm and value of traditional culture both at home and in kindergarten. First, parental assistance is a very effective form of home-school collaboration. Kindergartens can invite parents with traditional cultural backgrounds or expertise to the kindergarten to assist in teaching and share their knowledge and experience with the children. For example, some parents are skilled in calligraphy, traditional Chinese painting, or traditional handicrafts; they can organize related parent-child workshops, leading children to experience the charm of traditional culture firsthand. This approach not only enhances parents' sense of participation and belonging in kindergarten education but also stimulates children's interest and curiosity in traditional culture. Second, parent-child activities are also an important way to create a learning atmosphere of traditional culture. Kindergartens can design parent-child activities related to traditional culture, such as traditional festival celebrations and folk custom experiences, encouraging parents and children to participate together. During the activities, parents can make traditional festival foods with their children, appreciate traditional music and dance, and learn traditional etiquette, so that children can learn more about traditional culture with the help of their families. This kind of parent-child interaction not only helps to enhance parent-child relationships, but also cultivates

children's cultural identity and national pride. In addition, in order to strengthen communication and cooperation between home and school, kindergartens can also hold parent meetings and parent forums on a regular basis to discuss the concepts and methods of early childhood education with parents. In these activities, kindergartens can promote the importance and necessity of traditional cultural education to parents and guide them to pay attention to the influence and education of traditional culture on their children in daily life. At the same time, they can also listen to parents' opinions and suggestions on kindergarten education and work together to create a more harmonious and beneficial environment for children's development ^[4].

Conclusion

On the path of early childhood development, the integration and practice of traditional cultural elements are like a gentle spring rain, nourishing the hearts of children. Kindergartens, as the cradle of education, bear the important responsibility of inheriting culture. Educators should deeply understand the charm of traditional culture and skillfully integrate it into daily

education, creating a growth space full of traditional flavor for children. At the same time, the strong support and cooperation of parents and society are also crucial, jointly paving a brilliant path for children to the hall of traditional culture, allowing the seeds of culture to take root, sprout, and grow strong in their hearts.

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