

DEVELOPMENT OF AUDITORY PERCEPTION IN CHILDREN WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

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Abstract

This article highlights the methodological foundations and practical methods for developing auditory perception in children with visual impairments. It analyzes the possibilities of using auditory analyzers as a compensatory tool for blind and visually impaired children, the role of hearing in perceiving the environment, and effective systems of special correctional activities.

Keywords: Visual impairment, auditory perception, sensory compensation, correctional activities, acoustic perception, blind children, visually impaired children.

Introduction

Development of Auditory Perception in Children with Visual Impairments

The development of auditory perception in children with visual impairments is one of the most important directions in special pedagogy. For children with limited vision, the auditory analyzer serves as the main compensatory mechanism that ensures interaction with the surrounding environment. The development of auditory perception positively affects not only speech but also overall psychological development, including thinking, memory, and attention.

Specific Features of Auditory Perception in Children with Visual Impairments

Blind and visually impaired children have several distinctive features in auditory perception compared to sighted children:

1. Dominance of the compensatory function:

Due to limited vision, the auditory analyzer becomes the main source of information about the environment. As a result, auditory sensitivity in these children functions much more actively than in sighted peers.

2. Specific nature of analytic-synthetic activity:

Blind children perform more complex mental operations when analyzing and generalizing information received through hearing.

3. Development of spatial orientation:

Their ability to accurately determine the direction and distance of a sound source is highly developed.

4. Well-developed acoustic memory:

Blind children possess remarkable abilities to memorize sounds, noises, and voices.

5. Fine differentiation of sound characteristics:

They can clearly distinguish sound pitch, timbre, intensity, and duration.

Scientific and Methodological Foundations of Auditory Perception Development

The development of auditory perception in children with visual impairments is based on the following methodological principles:

- Compensatory orientation principle: Activities should aim to maximally develop the compensatory capabilities of the auditory analyzer.
- Systematic and sequential approach: Exercises should progress from simple to complex, from easy to difficult.
- Individual approach: The child's degree of visual impairment, age, and psychological characteristics must be considered.
- Practical orientation: The acquired skills should be applicable in the child's everyday life.
- Involvement of multiple senses: Activities should encourage the active participation of all remaining sensory organs along with hearing.

Practical Methods and Techniques for Developing Auditory Perception

Developing Skills in Sound Differentiation and Recognition

“World of Sounds” activities:

- Identifying natural sounds (rain, wind, birdsong)
- Differentiating household sounds (clock, phone, spoon, fork)
- Distinguishing transportation sounds (car, train, airplane)

Music activities:

- Recognizing sounds of different musical instruments
- Repeating melodies and rhythms
- Memorizing songs and tunes through listening

Determining the Direction and Distance of Sound Sources

Learning games:

- “Where is the sound coming from?” – identifying the source while blindfolded
- “Counting steps” – estimating distance through sound
- “Quiet walking” – evaluating the noiselessness of movement



Practical exercises:

- Finding the direction of a sound source in a room
- Comparing sounds from different distances
- Tracking the direction of a moving sound source

Improving Speech Perception**Developing phonemic hearing:**

- Differentiating similar sounds (s–z, sh–j)
- Identifying the sequence of sounds in words
- Distinguishing syllables and stress patterns

Developing auditory thinking:

- Following verbal instructions
- Answering questions based on a heard text
- Analyzing the content of a story heard

Effective Forms of Organizing Correctional Sessions

- Individual sessions: Conducted according to a personalized program tailored to each child's needs and abilities.
- Small group sessions: Carried out with children of similar age and impairment level to enhance social interaction.
- Integrated sessions: Developing auditory perception in connection with other mental processes.
- Daily practice: Reinforcing auditory skills in everyday situations under the supervision of educators or parents.

Use of Modern Technologies

- Special software: Interactive programs designed for auditory perception development.
- Audio training: Special recordings including sounds of different frequencies and intensities.
- Music therapy: Using various musical styles to enhance auditory sensitivity.
- Biotechnical devices: Special tools that indicate the exact direction and distance of sound sources.

Conclusion

The development of auditory perception in children with visual impairments is a complex, multi-stage process requiring a special pedagogical approach. Effective development of the auditory analyzer significantly improves blind and visually impaired children's ability to perceive their environment, enhances their independent mobility, communication skills, and overall psychological development.

A systematic approach, the creation of individualized programs, and the use of modern technologies are essential for successful correctional work. The development of auditory



perception not only fulfills a compensatory function but also contributes to the child's full personal development.

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