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## **THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPEECH SOUND CULTURE IN CHILDREN OF LOW-KINDERGARTEN AGE USING LOGOPEDIC EXERCISES**

Speech sound culture is a crucial aspect of language development that enables children to communicate successfully and interact with their environment. Modern research highlights the strong connection between the quality of speech sound culture and a child's overall development, as well as the need for early diagnosis and correction of speech disorders [1; 3].

Speech sound culture includes components such as proper articulation, fluency, tone, intonation, and expressiveness. These skills help children convey their thoughts, understand others, and develop harmonious social connections [2]. In middle preschool age (4–5 years), it is essential to establish the foundations of correct pronunciation, as this period is marked by active speech development and the acquisition of new sounds.

The development of speech sound culture aids children in forming correct articulation, sound pronunciation, speech tempo, and rhythm. The significance of speech sound culture in language development is substantiated in the works of A.K. Bondarenko (Bondarenko A.K. *Logopedic Work on the Development of Speech Sound Culture in Preschoolers* – Kyiv, 2012).

Many researchers have studied the issue of speech sound culture, including N. Babych, T. Borisova, N. Havrysh, O. Ivanova, N. Petrenko, M. Cherkasov, V. Sukhomlynskyi, I. Tatarina, Leon Kaczmarek, Bronisław Rocławski, Mirosław Grabias, Agnieszka Koczorowska-Bray, and others.

The cultivation of speech sound culture is carried out through a comprehensive approach that includes:

### **1. Logopedic Exercises**

Logopedic exercises for children are designed to activate speech muscles, develop tongue and lip mobility, and form correct sound combinations. Some of the most effective exercises include tongue exercises (“Hill,” “Boat”), lip exercises (“Smile,” “Tube”), and articulation exercises [1].

### **2. Articulation Gymnastics**

Exercises aimed at developing the motor skills of the speech apparatus enhance the accuracy and clarity of pronunciation. For example, the “Swing” exercise trains the tongue and lips, improving articulation of difficult sounds [2].

### **3. Developmental Games**

Speech therapy games, such as “Sound Chains” and “Guess the Sound,” contribute to the formation of phonemic awareness, as well as phonemic analysis and synthesis skills.

### **4. Correctional and Developmental Sessions with a Speech Therapist**

Individual work with a speech therapist allows for focusing on a child's specific speech sound issues, helping to develop stable pronunciation skills [3].

Logopedic exercises are a primary tool for forming speech sound culture. They include training individual sounds, combining them into syllables and words, and correcting speech disorders. For example, exercises for sound formation help refine problematic sounds such as “R,” “S,” and “Sh,” which are essential for clear diction (Sukhomlynskyi, 2015). Logopedic exercises also contribute to the development of speech breathing, an important aspect of ensuring proper speech tempo and intonation. Detailed methodological guidelines can be found in S. Koval's book (*Speech Breathing: Methods for Preschoolers' Development* – Kyiv, 2016).

### **Examples of Exercises**

1. **Articulation Exercise “Spatula”.** The child relaxes their tongue and lays it on the lower lip, holding it in this position for a few seconds. This exercise is useful for producing the “L” sound.

2. **Phonetic Exercise “Breeze”.** The child blows air, imitating the sound of wind. This exercise helps control breathing during speech.

3. **Interactive Exercise “Sound Story”.** The teacher tells a story that includes various sounds. The child imitates these sounds, helping the characters and developing auditory attention and expressive speech [2].

4. **Exercises for Tongue Mobility.** Exercises such as “Garlic,” “Hill,” and “Frog” enhance tongue coordination and mobility.

Studies show that the use of logopedic exercises significantly improves the speech sound culture of preschool children. Children become more confident in their speech, pronounce words more clearly, and overcome speech deficiencies. In particular, it has been noted that children who regularly performed articulation exercises achieved significantly better results in speech sound culture development than those who did not [2; 3].

Parental involvement enhances the effectiveness of speech therapy. The importance of collaboration between speech therapists and families is highlighted in the book by O.M. Solovey (*Collaboration Between Speech Therapists and Parents in the Development of Preschoolers' Speech Sound Culture* – Kyiv, 2017).

Thus, speech sound culture is a fundamental condition for the successful development of communication skills in preschool children. Logopedic exercises, combined with playful methods, are an effective means of correcting and shaping proper pronunciation. Further research in speech therapy and early childhood education may contribute to improving methods for developing speech sound culture, ultimately helping children adapt more effectively to educational settings and social interactions.

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