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INTRODUCING OLDER PRESCHOOLERS TO MODERN PROFESSIONS

Problem statement. The importance of introducing older preschool children to modern professions is due to rapid changes in the world of work, the emergence of new types of activities, and the transformation of traditional professions under the influence of digital technologies. During preschool childhood, the foundations of social competence, ideas about the surrounding world, and initial professional interests are laid, so children's limited or outdated ideas about professions do not correspond to the realities of modern society. Insufficient attention in the educational process to familiarizing children with current professions reduces their opportunities to form a holistic view of the world of work, which necessitates a scientific justification for the content of introducing preschoolers to modern professions.

Analysis of recent studies and publications indicates a sustained scientific interest in the problem of forming ideas about professions in preschool children and determining effective pedagogical means of its implementation. Thus, in her study, G. Chorna reveals the pedagogical foundations of forming ideas about professions in preschool children and determines the role of the educational environment and the purposeful activities of the educator [1]. The pedagogical foundations of familiarizing older preschool children with professional activities are thoroughly covered in the works of O. Lisovets and G. Ya. Sergiya, which focus on the content, methods, and pedagogical conditions for forming professional perceptions in preschoolers [2]. Certain aspects of the problem are presented in the study N. Sulaeva, who analyzes the preparation of future educators to introduce children to musical professions [3]. Significant attention to the use of didactic games in the process of career guidance and introducing preschoolers to professions is given in the scientific works of Yu. Lukasheva and O. Gnizdilova [4; 5]. The practical possibilities of forming ideas about professions during classes on familiarization with the social environment are revealed in the study by A. Yunchik [6], while Y. Dubovyk substantiates the effectiveness of modern children's books as a means of familiarizing preschoolers with the professional activities of adults [7]. At the same time, analysis of scientific sources shows that the problem of purposeful familiarization of older preschool children with modern professions has not been sufficiently developed, which determines the relevance of further research in this area.

The purpose of the article is to provide a theoretical justification and define the pedagogical features of introducing older preschool children to modern professions in the educational process of a preschool educational institution.

Presentation of the main material. According to the Law of Ukraine "On Preschool Education," preschool education is considered a holistic and continuous process aimed at the comprehensive development of the child, in particular, the

formation of moral norms and the acquisition of primary social experience necessary for full interaction with the surrounding world [8].

The Basic Component of Preschool Education in Ukraine, particularly in the educational area “The Child in the Sensory-Cognitive Space,” emphasizes the importance of fostering children's interest in and respect for various professions, as well as a positive emotional and value-based attitude toward the work and professional activities of adults [9].

It is in preschool age that children first become acquainted with the multifaceted and diverse world of professions, which is of great educational and cognitive importance. During this period, it is especially important to develop children's understanding of the social significance of each profession and their awareness that any work activity requires perseverance, responsibility, and continuous learning.

Scientific research emphasizes that modern educators in preschool institutions are a new type of teacher who actively implements innovative educational technologies and acts as an equal partner to children in the educational process. Such a specialist not only imparts knowledge but also acts as a mentor and consultant, helping pupils to learn about the world around them, form moral guidelines and universal human values, and contributing to the harmonious and comprehensive development of the child's personality.

In the context of shaping preschoolers' ideas about professions, the main task of the educator is to instill in children a positive attitude toward work, an awareness of its value, to provide basic knowledge about the professional activities of adults, and to stimulate the desire to learn, work, and think about choosing a future profession. That is why shaping ideas about the world of professions is considered one of the important areas of professional activity for preschool educators [1, p. 65].

The specifics of introducing children to adult professions are highlighted in the program for the education and training of children aged 2 to 7, “The Child.” It emphasizes expanding children's understanding of kindergarten as an institution where representatives of various professions work—teachers, teaching assistants, cooks, nurses, laundresses, janitors, etc. In addition, it provides for introducing children to the premises of the preschool education institution, their purpose and equipment, in particular the kitchen, medical office, and laundry room [10].

Forming the idea that every profession has its own significance helps children perceive work not only as a necessity but also as a value that is relevant in the modern world of labor. Familiarization with modern professions, such as IT specialist, designer, blogger, contributes to the development of key competencies in children, as well as a positive attitude towards work and the emotional and value sphere. In the process of getting acquainted with professions, preschoolers develop Communication, creative, and cognitive skills that are important for successful socialization: for example, the role of a programmer stimulates logical thinking, a designer stimulates creative perception and imagination, and the role of an event organizer stimulates planning and teamwork skills. Through play and game situations, children learn to empathize, appreciate the work of others, and realize its social significance.

Familiarization with the world of modern professions helps to form initial ideas about various types of activities, which in older preschool age becomes the basis for a

conscious choice of a future profession. Early experience of interacting with relevant professions allows children to become aware of their own interests and abilities, which will subsequently contribute to the development of independent choice and professional orientation skills during school and adolescence [2, p. 52].

Forming ideas about professions in older preschool children requires the use of a variety of pedagogical methods and tools that take into account the age characteristics, interests, and emotional perception of children. The most effective approach is to combine playful, practical, and informational approaches in the educational process. The process of introducing children to the world of professions involves the following main components:

1. Introducing preschoolers to different types of professions and the world of work through play activities.
2. Using a variety of teaching methods and tools to shape ideas about professions.
3. Providing a meaningful, rich, and comfortable subject-oriented developmental environment.
4. Creating conditions for joint activities between children and adults within the preschool education institution [2, p. 53].

Conclusions. Introducing older preschoolers to modern professions is an important part of forming a comprehensive understanding of the world of work and the social role of adults. Early exposure to relevant professions, such as IT specialist, designer, and blogger, contributes to the development of children's communication, creative, and cognitive skills, fosters respect for work, and promotes awareness of its value and social significance. The use of playful, practical, and informational methods in combination with various forms of activity allows for the effective formation of professional ideas, stimulating curiosity, independence, and a desire to learn, which are important prerequisites for further socialization and conscious career choices in the future.

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