



ACTIVE METHODS OF CHECKING HOMEWORK IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Abstract

Article explores the use of active methods for checking homework in primary school. The work analyzes the theoretical basis of homework as a pedagogical tool and examines innovative ways of its assessment in classroom practice. The study identifies the advantages of active methods – such as peer checking, gamification, and digital platforms – in increasing students’ motivation, responsibility, and self-reflection. Experimental results demonstrate that active methods make the learning process more engaging and effective.

Keywords: homework, primary school, active methods, peer assessment, motivation, feedback, interactive learning.

АКТИВНЫЕ СПОСОБЫ ПРОВЕРКИ ДОМАШНИХ ЗАДАНИЙ В НАЧАЛЬНОЙ ШКОЛЕ

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Аннотация

Статья посвящена исследованию активных способов проверки домашних заданий в начальной школе. В работе рассматриваются теоретические основы домашнего задания как педагогического инструмента и анализируются инновационные методы его проверки в учебной практике. Отмечается, что активные методы — такие как взаимопроверка, игровые формы и цифровые платформы — способствуют повышению мотивации учащихся, ответственности и способности к самоанализу. Результаты



эксперимента показывают, что активные методы делают учебный процесс более увлекательным и эффективным.

Ключевые слова: домашнее задание, начальная школа, активные методы, взаимопроверка, мотивация, обратная связь, интерактивное обучение.

Introduction

Homework has always been one of the key elements of the educational process. It allows students to consolidate the knowledge and skills acquired in class, promotes self-discipline, and helps teachers evaluate the effectiveness of instruction. For primary school children, homework serves not only as a tool for repetition but also as a means of developing responsibility, independence, and perseverance.

According to educational researchers such as John Hattie and Robert Marzano, properly designed homework can significantly enhance student learning outcomes. Homework encourages practice, supports memory retention, and strengthens the connection between school and home. Parents often become involved in their child's learning through homework, which promotes collaboration between teachers and families. However, the mere completion of homework does not ensure learning success. The process of checking and discussing homework plays a crucial role. Through feedback, correction, and reflection, students understand their mistakes and learn how to improve. Therefore, the way teachers check homework directly affects students' motivation and academic progress.

In modern education, the focus is shifting from teacher-centered to student-centered learning. This approach requires teachers to engage students actively in all stages of the learning process, including the assessment and review of homework. Hence, the concept of active methods of homework checking becomes particularly relevant in primary education.

Traditionally, teachers have relied on direct questioning, written corrections, and frontal checking during lessons. These methods, while effective for control and evaluation, often create a passive learning environment where students act as recipients of feedback rather than participants in the assessment process. Some of the common traditional approaches include:

- Oral questioning – the teacher asks individual students to answer questions about the homework.



- Collective checking – the whole class reviews the correct answers together.
- Teacher correction – the teacher collects notebooks and marks mistakes individually.

While these methods ensure discipline and accountability, they also have significant limitations:

1. They consume a large portion of lesson time.
2. They do not actively engage all students at once.
3. They rarely promote communication, cooperation, or self-assessment.

Young learners often perceive traditional homework checking as routine or even stressful. Consequently, their intrinsic motivation to complete homework decreases. Modern pedagogy therefore calls for a shift from mechanical control to interactive and reflective learning practices.

The term active methods refer to teaching strategies that encourage learners to take an active role in the learning process. According to constructivist theories, students learn more effectively when they are personally involved in discovering, discussing, and reflecting on knowledge. In the context of homework checking, active methods:

- Transform checking from a teacher-led control into a student-centered activity;
- Encourage communication, cooperation, and self-reflection;
- Turn mistakes into opportunities for learning rather than sources of punishment.

Active methods can take many forms, such as:

- Pair or group work – students discuss and check each other’s answers;
- Peer assessment – students use criteria to evaluate one another’s work;
- Interactive games and quizzes – homework review is turned into a game;
- Use of ICT – digital tools (Kahoot!, Quizizz, Google Classroom) make feedback immediate and engaging;
- Reflection exercises – students analyze what they did well and what needs improvement.

Active checking of homework thus fulfills multiple pedagogical goals: it improves comprehension, promotes critical thinking, builds collaboration skills, and increases motivation.

Primary school students are characterized by curiosity, playfulness, and a strong emotional response to praise and recognition. They need frequent feedback and encouragement to stay motivated. Active methods of homework checking meet



these psychological needs by making the process interactive, creative, and rewarding. For instance:

- When students check in pairs, they feel responsible not only for themselves but also for their partner's success.
- In game-based checking, the element of competition and fun makes learning more enjoyable.
- Through digital feedback tools, students receive instant results, which increases satisfaction and confidence.

Teachers who use active methods report several benefits:

- Students become more attentive during lessons.
- Homework quality improves as students know their work will be reviewed in an engaging way.
- Classroom relationships become more positive due to collaboration and mutual support.

Moreover, active methods correspond to the principles of formative assessment, which focuses on learning progress rather than solely on grades. Formative assessment helps teachers identify gaps in understanding and adjust their instruction accordingly.

Modern education emphasizes not only the acquisition of knowledge but also the development of critical thinking, creativity, and communication. These objectives require teachers to make every stage of the lesson — including homework checking — more interactive and engaging. In primary school, where children learn best through play and collaboration, the use of active methods is especially beneficial. Active homework checking creates a learning environment of cooperation rather than competition. It turns the process into a dialogue between teacher and students or among students themselves. This approach allows learners to understand their mistakes, develop reflection skills, and take responsibility for their own progress.

Teachers who apply active methods report that such strategies:

- Improve classroom atmosphere and student engagement;
- Encourage collaboration and peer learning;
- Increase accuracy and responsibility in homework completion;
- Save time by involving students directly in assessment.



There are many techniques that teachers can use to make homework checking active, creative, and effective. Below are several widely used examples that have proven successful in primary classrooms.

1. Pair Checking. Students exchange their homework notebooks and check each other's work using a checklist or teacher's guidance. The teacher may display correct answers on the board for comparison. This method promotes cooperation, critical thinking, and responsibility. It also helps students identify common mistakes and learn from each other.

2. Group Discussion. The class is divided into small groups. Each group discusses their homework answers, identifies difficulties, and agrees on the correct solutions. The teacher acts as a facilitator, guiding the discussion and clarifying complex points. This method develops communication skills, teamwork, and respect for others' opinions.

3. Game-Based Checking. Turning the homework review into a game is one of the most effective ways to engage young learners. Examples include:

✓ "Homework Bingo" — each correct answer allows a student to mark a square on their bingo card;

✓ "True or False" — the teacher reads statements related to the homework, and students decide if they are true or false;

✓ "Quiz-Quiz-Trade" — students walk around the classroom asking each other questions from their homework and exchange cards after each round.

These methods create excitement, competition, and motivation to participate actively.

4. The "Traffic Light" Method. Students use colored cards or stickers to show how confident they feel about their homework:

✓ *Green* — I understood everything;

✓ *Yellow* — I have some doubts;

✓ *Red* — I need help.

Table-1. Student Feedback Form (Traffic Light Method)

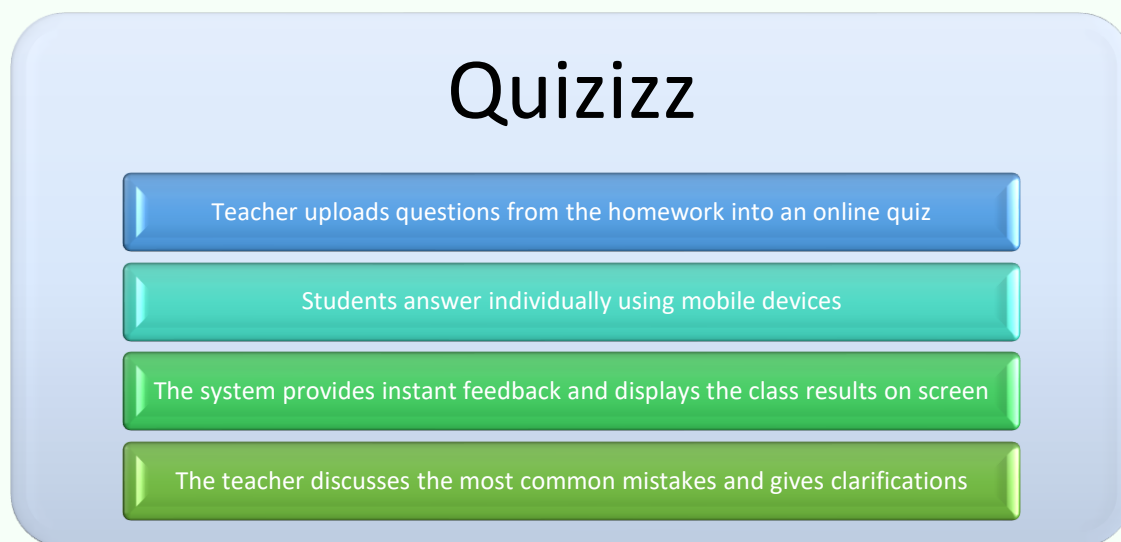
Statement	Green	Yellow	Red
I understood the homework task	Green	Yellow	Red
I completed it without help	Green	Yellow	Red
I can explain my answers	Green	Yellow	Red
I want to learn more about this topic	Green	Yellow	Red

This visual technique allows the teacher to quickly identify who needs additional support and to adjust instruction accordingly.

5. Gallery Walk. Students display their homework on the classroom walls or desks. Others walk around, read the work, and leave comments or stickers with feedback. This activity encourages peer review, critical analysis, and pride in one's work.

6. Digital Checking. Online tools such as *Kahoot!*, *Quizizz*, *Google Forms*, or *ClassDojo* can be used for checking homework in a playful, interactive way. These tools provide instant feedback and statistics that help both students and teachers track progress.

Table-2. Example of Digital Homework Checking



Digital tools make the process faster, more engaging, and adaptable for both in-class and remote learning.

Example: To test the effectiveness of active methods, a small experimental study was conducted in two fourth-grade classes at a primary school.

- Control group (Class A): traditional methods of homework checking (teacher correction and oral questioning).
- Experimental group (Class B): active methods, including pair checking, interactive quizzes, and the traffic light technique.

The experiment lasted eight weeks. Both groups were given the same amount and level of homework tasks.

Results. At the end of the experiment, the following results were observed (Tab.-3).

Table-3. Results

Indicators	Class A (Traditional)	Class B (Active)
Homework completion rate	70%	95%
Accuracy of answers	68%	88%
Student motivation (survey)	60%	92%
Participation in homework discussions	55%	90%

The results clearly show that students in the experimental group demonstrated higher motivation, better understanding of material, and improved accuracy. They also showed a more positive attitude toward homework and the learning process in general. Teachers noted that active methods encouraged students to help each other, discuss errors openly, and show pride in their work. The classroom atmosphere became more supportive and energetic.

After the experiment, a short questionnaire was distributed among teachers and students. Teachers reported that:

- Active methods made lessons more dynamic and time-efficient.
- Students became more responsible and confident.
- They could easily identify students' difficulties during the checking process.

Students said that:

- Homework checking became interesting and fun.
- They liked working in pairs or groups.
- They understood their mistakes better and learned from classmates.

This feedback confirms that active methods foster positive emotional and cognitive engagement.

Pedagogical Recommendations. Based on the theoretical analysis and practical experiment, the following recommendations can be made for primary school teachers:

1. Combine traditional and active approaches to balance control and creativity.
2. Establish clear criteria for evaluating homework before checking begins.
3. Use pair and group work to promote peer learning and collaboration.
4. Integrate digital tools to provide instant and engaging feedback.
5. Reflect together with students after checking — discuss what was difficult, what was learned, and how to improve.
6. Differentiate methods depending on students' age, level, and subject.
7. Encourage self-assessment by asking students to rate their own performance.



By applying these strategies, teachers can transform homework checking into a valuable part of the learning process that supports cognitive and emotional development. The conducted research confirms that the effectiveness of homework depends not only on how it is assigned but also on how it is checked. In traditional approaches, homework checking is often viewed merely as a form of control. However, this study demonstrates that the process can become a powerful educational tool when transformed through active methods.

Active methods of checking homework help shift the focus from teacher-centered assessment to student-centered learning. They encourage learners to analyze, discuss, and reflect on their own work, developing critical thinking and self-evaluation skills. By participating actively in the checking process, students gain a deeper understanding of the subject matter, learn from their mistakes, and become more motivated and responsible. The experimental results revealed that using active methods – such as peer checking, group discussions, interactive quizzes, and digital platforms – significantly improved students’ engagement and homework quality. Teachers also noted time efficiency, improved classroom atmosphere, and greater collaboration among students. Therefore, it can be concluded that active methods of homework checking are not only a form of assessment but also an essential component of modern, interactive, and learner-centered education. Their use contributes to the development of autonomy, responsibility, and positive motivation among primary school students.

Pedagogical Implications

- ✓ Teachers should integrate active methods systematically into the lesson plan.
- ✓ Schools should provide methodological training on interactive assessment techniques.
- ✓ Homework checking should serve both evaluative and developmental purposes, guiding students toward continuous improvement.

In conclusion, active methods of homework checking make the learning process more effective, enjoyable, and meaningful. They represent an innovative pedagogical practice that corresponds to the demands of 21st-century education.



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