



ESTABLISHING DEVELOPMENTAL CENTERS BASED ON THE "ILK QADAM" STATE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

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Abstract

This article explores the significance of developmental centers established under Uzbekistan's "Ilk Qadam" state educational program. These centers aim to enhance preschool children's cognitive, social, physical, and creative skills through structured activities. The article discusses five key centers: Construction and Mathematics, Role-Playing and Theatrical Performance, Language and Speech, Natural Science and Environmental Studies, and Physical Development and Health. Each center fosters essential skills such as STEM learning, logical reasoning, social communication, language proficiency, and environmental awareness. The implementation of these centers supports children's holistic development, preparing them for future academic success and social adaptation.

Keywords: Collaboration and teamwork, Construction activities, Digital tools and coding, Engineering thinking, Environmental studies, Health and wellness, Imaginative play, Language development, Logical reasoning, Mathematical concepts, Motor skills training, Natural science exploration, Phonics and literacy, Physical development, Problem-solving, Role-playing.

Introduction

To enhance the preschool education system and ensure the comprehensive development of children, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan approved the "Ilk Qadam" state educational program by Resolution No. 318 on



April 16, 2018. This program aims to create a modern educational model for preschool-aged children, focusing on knowledge acquisition, creative thinking, social communication, and physical development. Establishing developmental centers based on the "Ilk Qadam" program has become increasingly relevant today. These centers contribute to the development of children's creativity, scientific understanding, physical abilities, and speech skills, strengthening their preparedness for future education. Below, the main types of these centers and their roles in the educational process are discussed.

1. Construction and Mathematics Center. This center is designed to develop children's engineering thinking and logical reasoning skills. It provides a structured environment where children can explore fundamental concepts of mathematics, physics, and spatial awareness through hands-on activities. Engaging in building projects, problem-solving exercises, and interactive games enhances their cognitive abilities and fine motor skills. The center encourages creativity, experimentation, and teamwork, fostering a deeper understanding of engineering principles. Additionally, it introduces basic mathematical concepts such as counting, measurement, symmetry, and geometric shapes, helping children build a strong foundation for future learning in STEM fields. Key areas of focus:

- **Constructive Games:** Developing spatial thinking through Legos, building blocks, and other construction materials.
- **Mathematical Activities:** Enhancing logical reasoning through numbers, shapes, measurements, and comparisons.
- **Problem-Solving Skills:** Teaching children independent problem-solving and strategic thinking.
- **Balance and Manipulative Skills:** Providing special tasks to develop fine motor skills.
- **Geometry Fundamentals:** Studying basic shapes and their spatial relationships.
- **Mathematical Logic Games:** Educational games that facilitate children's numerical comprehension.
- **Design and Modeling:** Learning engineering and design fundamentals by creating various construction projects.



- **Counting and Measurement Exercises:** Developing practical math skills through object measurement and calculation.

2. Role-Playing and Theatrical Performance Center. This center provides opportunities for children to engage in imaginative play, take on different roles, and develop empathy by understanding different perspectives. Through drama, storytelling, and puppet theater, children refine their verbal expression, body language, and confidence in public speaking. Interactive role-play scenarios, such as playing doctor, teacher, or shopkeeper, allow children to practice real-life social interactions in a safe and supportive environment. Additionally, teamwork and cooperation are emphasized as children work together to create and enact short plays, fostering both creativity and emotional intelligence. Key areas of focus:

- **Social Role-Playing Games:** Introducing children to different professions and developing communication skills through role-playing.
- **Theatrical Performance:** Enhancing creativity and expressive speech through simple plays and storytelling.
- **Teamwork Skills:** Teaching children how to work in groups and coordinate activities.
- **Emotional Intelligence Development:** Helping children express and regulate their emotions through play.
- **Imitation Games:** Improving social adaptation through specialized game-based learning scenarios.
- **Dialogue and Communication Activities:** Encouraging verbal expression.
- **Solving Social Issues:** Developing problem-solving skills through role-playing real-life social situations.

3. Language and Speech Center. The language and speech center focuses on developing children's oral and written communication skills through various structured and interactive activities. It enhances vocabulary acquisition through storytelling, picture books, and word association games. Children engage in phonemic awareness exercises, improving their pronunciation and articulation. The center also fosters early literacy skills by introducing letter recognition, sentence formation, and comprehension activities. Group discussions and debates encourage children to express their thoughts clearly and confidently. Additionally, drama-



based exercises, such as poetry recitation and public speaking, help refine their expressive communication. The center further incorporates digital storytelling tools and language development software to provide a multifaceted approach to language learning, ensuring that children build a strong foundation for future academic success. Key areas of focus:

- **Vocabulary Expansion:** Interactive conversations, storytelling, and vocabulary enrichment exercises.
- **Pronunciation Practice:** Correcting speech through speech therapy exercises.
- **Reading and Storytelling:** Encouraging interest in books and fostering creative thinking.
- **Dramatic Speech Skills:** Expressive reading of poetry and stories, with speech-focused exercises.
- **Literacy Improvement:** Learning letters, words, and text comprehension.
- **Social Communication:** Group discussions to support speech development.
- **Character Speech Analysis:** Examining the speech patterns of characters in stories and fairy tales.

4. Natural Science and Environmental Studies Center. This center is focused on developing children's scientific curiosity and understanding of the natural world. It provides opportunities for hands-on exploration and experimentation, allowing children to observe and interact with their environment. Activities such as planting seeds, studying insects, and observing weather patterns help children understand basic scientific concepts like life cycles, ecosystems, and sustainability. Sensory experiences, such as touching different textures, exploring natural elements, and conducting simple experiments, enhance their cognitive and observational skills. The center also emphasizes environmental awareness by teaching children about recycling, conservation, and the importance of caring for the planet. Key areas of focus:

- **Exploring Nature:** Observing plants, animals, and natural phenomena to foster an appreciation of the environment.
- **Simple Experiments:** Conducting basic science experiments to develop inquiry-based learning skills.



- **Understanding Ecosystems:** Teaching children about different habitats and their importance.
- **Environmental Awareness:** Encouraging responsible behavior towards nature through hands-on activities.
- **Seasonal Changes Studies:** Observing and discussing the impact of seasonal changes on nature.
- **Scientific Thinking:** Encouraging children to ask questions and develop hypotheses about the world around them.

5. Physical Development and Health Center. This center aims to promote children's physical well-being and motor skills development through structured and engaging activities. It focuses on enhancing both gross and fine motor skills, coordination, and overall physical fitness. The center includes various physical exercises such as obstacle courses, balance games, stretching routines, and dance activities that improve flexibility, strength, and endurance. Additionally, interactive sports and outdoor play encourage teamwork, cooperation, and sportsmanship. Key areas of focus:

- **Gross Motor Skills Development:** Activities such as running, jumping, and climbing to improve coordination and strength.
- **Fine Motor Skills Exercises:** Tasks involving hand-eye coordination, such as drawing, cutting, and threading.
- **Sports and Games:** Engaging children in structured and free-play activities to develop teamwork and discipline.
- **Healthy Lifestyle Education:** Teaching children about nutrition, hygiene, and overall well-being.
- **Relaxation and Mindfulness Activities:** Introducing techniques such as breathing exercises and simple yoga to enhance mental and emotional balance.
- **Safety Awareness:** Educating children on personal safety and first aid basics.

Establishing developmental centers based on the "Ilk Qadam" state educational program significantly contributes to children's holistic development. These centers enhance children's logical, creative, and social skills, fostering independent thinking and problem-solving abilities. Each center helps discover and nurture children's individual talents, ensuring their successful adaptation to future



educational pathways. Additionally, these centers improve children's psychological and social adaptation, facilitating their active participation in society. The centers formed under the "Ilk Qadam" program play an essential role in modern education, significantly influencing children's intellectual and social development.

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