



## „TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPING PHONEMIC HEARING IN YOUNG CHILDREN"

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**Annotation.** This article explores the process of developing phonemic hearing in children, its significance in speech formation, and the effective technologies used in speech therapy practice. It also analyzes play technologies, modern speech therapy methods, and interactive lessons aimed at developing phonemic hearing. Furthermore, methodological foundations focused on distinguishing, memorizing, and isolating sounds are examined. It is emphasized that through play technologies, children's skills and interest are enhanced, leading to improvement in phonemic hearing abilities. Research findings indicate that methods targeting phonemic hearing significantly contribute to improving children's speech activity. It is also noted that these technologies are aimed at increasing the child's potential in the future, assisting them in mastering literacy skills – reading and writing.

**Keywords:** Phonemic hearing, young children, speech therapy (logopedia), speech disorders, pedagogical technologies, play methods, pronunciation, hearing ability.

**Introduction.** In young children during the preschool period, the complete process of speech development is a physiological and psychological process, where phonemic hearing holds a special place. Phonemic hearing involves perceiving and differentiating sounds and using them correctly in the process of speech. This process arises from the coordination between the child's speech apparatus, central nervous system, and auditory analyzers. Today, in modern speech therapy science, the issue of developing phonemic hearing is considered a crucial factor in shaping a child's correct pronunciation, reading, and writing skills. Therefore, organizing phonemic hearing activities using scientifically grounded and implemented technologies is essential for speech therapists. Phonemic hearing develops from a child's early age through communication with those around them. If a child's phonemic hearing is poorly developed, they may confuse words and sounds, resulting in the rearrangement or omission of sounds. Children with phonemic disorder may experience difficulties in correctly pronouncing sounds, which leads to challenges in writing when they reach school age. In this regard, speech therapists contribute to improving the child's development through specialized sessions.

**Main Part.** The Essence of Phonemic Hearing Phonemic hearing is understood as the ability to differentiate sounds in speech, perceive subtle differences in pronunciation, and link perceived sounds with meaning. This ability develops during the child's first years of life. If phonemic hearing is insufficiently developed in a child, it can lead to sound confusion, incorrect pronunciation, and subsequently, mistakes in written speech upon reaching school age. Phonemic development is divided into stages. Based on speech therapy experience, the development of phonemic hearing is carried out through the following stages: Forming Auditory Attention: Shaping the child's attention to sounds (for example, teaching them to distinguish natural sounds, music, and ambient sounds).

Teaching Sound Differentiation (Discrimination): Distinguishing phonemes that are similar to each other (for example, "s" and "sh," "b" and "p")

.Differentiating and Isolating Sounds within a Word: The ability to determine whether a perceived sound occurs at the beginning, middle, or end of a word.

Linking Sounds with Pronunciation: The child's ability to correctly pronounce the sound they hear and use it within the composition of a word. Modern Speech Therapy Technologies Today, the field of speech therapy utilizes various technologies to develop phonemic hearing in children. The most effective methods in this process include:

Play Technologies: Interactive games focused on distinguishing and recognizing sounds by listening, and linking sounds with words ("Which word has the letter 'a'?", "Find the sound?" etc.). Information and Communication Technologies (ICT): Organizing auditory exercises and sound tests through multimedia programs and speech therapy software.

Sensory Development Technology: Exercises that develop hearing, vision, and motor skills (performing a movement or selecting the corresponding picture after hearing a sound). Integration with Articulation Exercises: Combining the development of phonemic hearing with exercises that strengthen the speech apparatus (blowing out a candle, moving the tongue). Developing Phonemic Hearing Through Games

Play is an educational activity for children, and the process of play significantly contributes to and yields effective results in the development of phonemic hearing. Through engaging games: "Listen and Find" game: The child listens as the speech therapist says words, and the child identifies whether the target sounds are present or not. "Listen-Find" game: This game impacts the child's brain activity. The child selects and shows the letters they found through listening by pointing to a picture.

"Divide the Word": The speech therapist pronounces words, and the child divides the words they hear into sounds. Such activities serve not only to improve the child's hearing ability but also to enhance concentration, strengthen memory, and develop thinking. Sessions for developing phonemic hearing should be short but consistent, lasting 5-10 minutes every day. Work is done with each sound, using aids, pictures, and audio materials. Tasks are given based on the child's age, assimilation level, and stage of development. Each session holds a separate place. Providing positive motivation to the child is ensured.

**Conclusion.** The development of phonemic hearing in children is considered the key to complete speech formation. Therefore, it is important for speech therapists to organize these activities responsibly and effectively, utilizing innovative and play technologies. The speech therapist's correctly chosen methodology contributes not only to phonemic hearing but also to the development of the child's speech culture and communicative skills. Our observations indicate that the use of technology for developing phonemic hearing in young children yields effective results.

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