



## “DEVELOPING CREATIVE THINKING AND AESTHETIC SENSIBILITY IN SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN THROUGH FOLK APPLIED ARTS”

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**Abstract:** This article explores the role of folk applied arts in developing creative thinking and aesthetic sensibility in school-age children. The study examines children’s activities in creating patterns and ornaments, combining colors and shapes, and presenting and sharing their work. The results indicate that folk applied arts enhance children’s respect for national culture, foster creative thinking, and develop aesthetic perception. Furthermore, integrating folk arts into the educational process serves as an effective tool for cultivating cultural literacy in children.

**Keywords:** Folk applied arts, creative thinking, aesthetic education, cultural heritage, school-age children

Developing aesthetic sensibility and creative thinking in school-age children is a vital aspect of the educational process. Folk applied arts provide children with opportunities to select colors, shapes, and patterns, harmonize them, and implement their own creative decisions. Through this, children learn to appreciate national culture and heritage while enhancing their creative thinking and aesthetic perception.

During practical activities, children create patterns, combine colors, and apply decorative elements, which enables them to express their creative potential. These activities also help develop focus, problem-solving skills, and logical thinking. Research shows that folk applied arts are an effective means of developing aesthetic taste, visual perception, and creative thinking in children.

Developing creative thinking and aesthetic sensibility in school-age children through folk applied arts is an important aspect of the educational process. During practical activities, children are exposed to colors, patterns, and shapes, which helps strengthen their visual perception, aesthetic taste, and creative abilities. Activities such as creating patterns, combining colors, and applying decorative elements allow children





to express their own creative potential. For example, working with textiles, embroidery (such as Suzani), clay modeling, or paper crafts develops not only aesthetic taste but also visual thinking. Additionally, these activities improve focus, problem-solving skills, and independent decision-making abilities in children.

Interactive approaches in lessons play a crucial role. Group activities enable children to analyze each other's work, exchange ideas, and collaborate creatively. This process fosters communication and social skills, teaching children to listen to others and show respect for different perspectives. Consequently, children not only develop an interest in national art but also learn to defend and share their own creative decisions.

Studying examples of national arts also enhances visual thinking and creativity. Research shows that children are eager to share their own creations with family members or classmates, which motivates them and strengthens their creative drive. Moreover, children learn to understand symmetry, order, and design elements while working with patterns and colors. These cognitive skills are valuable not only in artistic activities but also in other subjects, such as mathematics and natural sciences, as they promote logical thinking and problem-solving abilities.

Practical studies indicate that folk applied arts significantly increase children's interest in national art. During lessons, children strive to present their work, analyze the work of their peers, and share their experiences. At the same time, they learn to make independent choices regarding traditional patterns, colors, and decorative techniques, which strengthens creative thinking and personal expression. Teachers continuously support children by recommending new techniques, monitoring results, and considering individual development levels.

An integrative approach is applied in lessons with children. This means that traditional decorative arts are combined with modern creative activities, which further increases interest and motivation. For example, children can draw patterns using digital technology, color them in computer programs, or create 3D models, learning traditional arts through modern tools. This approach improves children's technological literacy, broadens their creative opportunities, and engages them with national art.

Lessons conducted with diverse teaching methods achieve the best results. Practical, interactive, and project-based activities help develop children's creative thinking and aesthetic sense. Moreover, it is essential that teachers actively support children, introduce new patterns and techniques, and monitor progress. Regular





assessment of results, consideration of children's individual development levels, and acknowledgment of their interests enhance the effectiveness of these activities.

In conclusion, integrating national art and folk applied arts into the school curriculum develops children's creative abilities, shapes their aesthetic taste, and fosters respect for cultural heritage. Such activities enhance visual, cognitive, aesthetic, and social skills, teaching children to appreciate their national heritage while strengthening their creative thinking. Therefore, systematically incorporating folk applied arts into education serves as an effective pedagogical strategy for developing cultural literacy and creative potential in school-age children.

Folk applied arts play a crucial role in developing creative thinking and aesthetic sensibility in school-age children. Practical activities, such as creating patterns, combining colors, and applying decorative elements, enable children to express their creativity while improving focus, problem-solving, and independent decision-making skills. Additionally, collaborative activities foster communication, social skills, and the ability to respect and evaluate others' perspectives.

Research and practical experience show that integrating folk applied arts into the school curriculum significantly increases children's interest in national culture, strengthens their creative potential, and develops aesthetic taste. Incorporating both traditional and modern approaches, including digital tools, enhances motivation, broadens creative opportunities, and promotes technological literacy.

Overall, using folk applied arts as an educational strategy not only enriches children's artistic and creative abilities but also cultivates cultural literacy and respect for heritage. Systematic inclusion of such activities in the educational process is essential for nurturing well-rounded, creative, and culturally aware students.

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