Multicultural Education in Kindergarten: From the Perspective of Festival Education of a Kindergarten in Chengdu

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Abstract: Multicultural education is an educational concept. Multicultural education in kindergarten is a kind of teaching activities organized by teachers so that children can learn to respect the culture of other countries. As an important part of culture, festivals have rich educational connotation and educational value in kindergarten activities. As the builders and successors of the future society, carrying out holiday education helps to promote children’s cognitive, behavioral and emotional development. Based on the existing problems of multi-cultural festival education in Kindergarten A, this study proposes relevant Suggestions to promote the common progress of teachers, parents and children.

Keywords: Multi-culture; Holiday education; Education advice

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1. The Introduction

Multicultural education originated in the United States in the late 1960s, and has gradually become an educational concept in the nearly half a century’s development in the West, mainly through teaching students to respect their own ethnic groups and different ethnic and cultural groups. Education is the cultural foundation of a country and a nation and has its profound importance. It is generally believed that education in a broad sense refers to various activities that affect the formation and development of people’s physical health, knowledge, skills and ideological morality. In the Dictionary of Education, education is interpreted as “social

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activities to transfer social life experience and cultivate people”. East China Normal University, 2014. “Multi-cultural education” means that all students, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity and other different or special groups, should enjoy equal education in schools. Beijing: People’s Publishing House, 2006. “Festival” refers to the memorable days in life, which is an important part of the world folk culture. From the perspective of festivals, festival education inherits the excellent traditions of the Chinese nation and cultivates the education of well-rounded people. Therefore, in education and teaching, the connection between education and festival education should not be separated. Only the combination of the two is good education, so as to achieve our educational purpose.

2. Research Status of Multicultural Education

(I) Current situation abroad

Through combing the literature, it is found that western festival education originates from etiquette education, which can be traced back to ancient Greek culture, Roman culture and Hebrew culture education. At that time, holiday education was mainly linked with religious education. For children, the first thing after birth was to participate in baptism or baptism. Children would also follow their parents to church or celebrate religious festivals at home. Foreign research on multicultural education started earlier. Morrison, an American preschool educator, believes that multicultural education for children is a kind of education to help children live, learn and communicate in a different cultural world. Banks emphasizes the “process” of education, emphasizing the interaction and understanding of other people’s culture and other cultures in the process of education. In terms of its educational value, promoting educational equity and social justice are its core keywords, which should strengthen the connection between schools and communities. His research has clarified the concept, purpose and development process of multiculturalism, and many of his theories have been widely applied. Many teachers at home and abroad have used Banks’ theories to design courses.

American educator John Dewey believed that “education is growth, education is life, education is the transformation of experience”. He once wrote in his book “School and Society” that schools should actively adapt to social changes. He also wrote that children’s life is education itself, so teachers should pay attention to children’s interest, respect children’s subjective development, form the activity form of teachers and students learning together. Based on Vygotsky’s theory, social construction theory emphasizes that people’s learning is formed by the interaction
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between people and the surrounding environment, emphasizes the construction of personal experience and meaning, and attaches importance to the social environment and the influence of teachers on students.

(2) Domestic status quo

With the development of the society, the cultural exchanges between different countries become more and more frequent, and the influence of multi-culture on China is increasing. Many scholars have put forward their own opinions and views on multi-culture, which has had an important impact on education. The study on festival education in preschool education in China is earlier. In the Western Zhou Dynasty, the ritual education about sacrificial festivals in the palace preschool education was also involved. As early as the Pre-Qin Period, some of China’s traditional festivals have its embryonic form, in the Song Dynasty, there are records of the festival influenced by the Western festival culture. In a speech, Mr. Fei Xiaotong put forward his views on the multi-culture: “Each is beautiful in its own way, the beauty of beauty, beauty and unity, the world is a great unity which also proves that Mr. Fei holds an inclusive and understanding attitude towards multi-culture and respects it. The state attaches increasing importance to traditional festivals. Especially after the promulgate of relevant holiday policies, holiday education is paid more attention to in kindergartens, and a relatively complete holiday education system is gradually established. Li Shenglan, a famous education expert in China, pointed out that when kindergartens carry out multi-cultural education for children, they should not only make use of various educational resources in the garden, but also make active use of external multi-cultural education resources to promote children’s overall physical and mental development.

After the founding of new China, under the guidance of the “to the Soviet union”, the calculation model of the courses and set up a branch teaching system under the guidance of these thoughts, kindergarten education established a system including the festival significance, preparing and requirements, in the form of a complete system. In the relevant research on holiday education, it is found that a small number of parents have never participated in holiday education activities. Although many researchers have put forward relevant strategies to improve parents’ participation in activities, in the practice of holiday education, the enthusiasm of parents’ participation is still worthy of attention. Children should be the main body of the festival, but the current holiday education still ignore the phenomenon of children, at the same time, fewer children in the holiday environment layout. The educational environment of festivals should not only be a decoration, but should have the content of practical educational significance. Moreover, in the implementation of holi-
day education, the utilization of community resources in kindergartens is not ideal. With the continuous development of the society, the content of the festival also keeps pace with The Times, constantly enriched. In this multicultural society, the significance of carrying out festival cultural education is to let children have a better understanding of their own traditional culture and customs, and promote their cognitive development.

3. Third, There are Problems in Multi-cultural Festival Education in Kindergartens

(1) The professional competence of teachers is weak

In festival education study, through to the children in the class situation overall participation zongzi individual detailed records and summary record of all understand the children’s rice dumplings, observation of the individual child records mainly because more young children in the class can’t detailed record general situation of children’s behaviour, so choose to look at the individual child. In essence, evaluation is a kind of value judgment activity. Through interviews, it is learned that teachers seldom evaluate and reflect on activities after they carry out them. Some teachers only pay attention to children’s understanding of holiday customs, but do not pay too much attention to the situation of children during the activities. In the activities, some teachers could not answer the questions about festivals raised by children, such as the origin of festivals, which also reflected the lack of understanding of traditional festivals by teachers.

Children are active self growth participants, but their growth is implemented in the interaction with others, they are carried by others in the surrounding environment of a particular social culture guide. This shows the importance of local culture to the development of young children.

For example, the Dragon Boat Festival takes advantage of local resources such as zongye and Mugwort to carry out activities, reflecting the concept of multicultural education. Through the interview, it is learned that the theme wall about the festival is rarely arranged on the inside and outside of the classroom, the corridor and the gate during the festival. Teachers will prepare necessary materials before the class festival activities, but not enough; There are few forms of activities, mainly teaching activities and game activities, and no handmade activities. Moreover, almost no western festivals are held in kindergartens or ethnic festivals.
(2) **Insufficient attention from parents**

From the perspective of culture, family is a relatively closed space and the main place for cultural preservation and inheritance. Since ancient times, our country is a traditional country, it also reflects the family contact festival, through the interview we found part of the parents are willing to attend kindergarten education festival activities organized, but there are also a few parents about holiday education parents most preschool education is considered an “knowledge”, don’t care about young children in the theme of exploring spirit in education, do not see any point in the kindergarten organization activities, and can’t complete a task with young children, such as handmade, some parents say because their busy work and don’t want to do, this has brought the development of the kindergarten education festival.

(3) **Insufficient community support**

About the definition of community, there are many American sociologist moshier believes that “the function of the human community is associated with a group of people, are in a period of them live in a certain area, share a common culture, are arranged within a social structure, feel to have left the uniqueness and the sole group sex. According to the interviews with teachers, the problems reflected in the community mainly focus on the insufficient utilization of community resources in kindergartens, the lack of development of traditional Chinese festivals in communities, the insufficient festive atmosphere, and the absence of western festivals. Limited space for the kindergarten, less cooperation with the kindergarten and less participation of community personnel. This shows that the community support is insufficient and the importance of the festival is insufficient. Society to teacher’s professional identity to a certain extent, also reflects the teachers’ position in the society, also reflected the degree of social respect for teachers. society of preschool teachers’ professional less esteemed, this has certain influence on the enthusiasm of teachers. Society on the importance of the preschool education is mainly through the pre-school education policy to reflect, for the kindergarten, the impact of these policy about education lies in teachers’ pay and evaluation of teachers, preschool teachers’ low treatment has not solved, the condition of the material basis can not get guarantee, which is also the important factors that affect teachers’ enthusiasm.
4. Suggestions on Multi-cultural Festival Education in Kindergartens

**(1) Teachers should strive to enhance their professional qualities**

Kindergarten, kindergarten principals, as the leader of kindergarten, should have a firm belief in holiday education, teachers themselves should also strive to improve their professional quality, can participate in the relevant preschool teachers professional ability training courses, training courses must be increased cultural courses, especially the traditional culture should be highlighted. In today’s noisy society, teachers have become increasingly impetuous, and fewer and fewer of them can really calm down to read books. Teachers, as engineers of human soul, should improve their own cultural literacy through reading, nourish the soul, seek for the pure land of the soul, and increase their understanding of traditional festival customs. It is necessary to combine culture with enthusiasm for education, and highlight the image of teachers as cultural researchers. As cultural researchers, teachers should strengthen the consciousness of “subject” in culture and pay attention to the identification, comparison and criticism of culture. The surrounding environment has a subtle influence on children, so teachers should actively create a holiday education environment, excavate the local cultural connotation, and prepare sufficient materials before each activity to enrich the forms of activities. Such as the lunar August 15 every year is China’s traditional festival Mid-Autumn Festival, teachers can carry out activities for children to taste moon cakes, share moon cakes with peers, and so on. Try to introduce festivals of different countries to children, understand and respect cultures of different RACES and nationalities, and integrate various activities of kindergartens with the theme of festivals, fully explore and utilize folk games, supplement and enrich the theme content, and deepen the value of festival education.

**(2) Parents should attach importance to improving the quality of multi-culture**

We say that family is the cradle of children’s growth, parents are children’s first teacher, growing up in a warm and harmonious family is very important for children. Parents should pay attention to improve their own multicultural education connotation, more understanding of parenting methods, parenting knowledge. At the same time, I can read cultural books, participate in social and cultural practices, and cultivate my own multi-cultural values through the differences between Chinese and Western cultures. Parents can actively participate in and support the kindergarten’s holiday education activities. Home co-education is an important way to
expand the scope of festival curriculum implementation. Before the activity begins, the park can invite parents, children and children to look up information together, collect materials needed for environmental layout, and invite parents of all children in the park to participate in the theme activity. For example, the Dragon Boat Festival invites grandparents to make zongzi and play majiang with children. In this process, children not only understand the traditional customs, but also feel the deep affection, and parents also in this process to deepen the understanding of multicultural education, to help improve the quality of parents.

(3) The community should strengthen the understanding of multicultural education

Kindergartens should make clever use of community resources to hold traditional festival themed activities, so as to help them grow up healthily and improve the educational gist of festival themed activities. For example, on the occasion of the Double Ninth Festival, children can walk into the surrounding communities and nursing homes during the festival, perform programs for the grandparents in the communities and nursing homes, and chug on their backs. Children can make love CARDS in advance and give them to their grandparents. Through a series of activities, children can understand the meaning of the Double Ninth Festival and the meaning of the festival. For western festivals, communities should adopt an inclusive and open attitude. For some Western festivals, such as Christmas, Christmas trees can be hung at the gate of communities to create a festive atmosphere. At the same time, the cooperation between the community and the kindergarten can also achieve the effect of improving the community cultural atmosphere. The community should be open to education. It should not only provide various resources for multicultural education, but also cooperate with kindergarten teachers to explore community resources so that the community can provide better services for multicultural education. The development of traditional festivals needs a social environment, and kindergartens should integrate social resources and create a traditional culture and education environment.
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