



# Research on the Theoretical Framework and Cultivation System of the Core Competencies of Students Majoring in Preschool Education

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**Abstract:** This paper focuses on the core competencies of preschool education majors, aiming to construct a theoretical framework and cultivation system. Based on literature review and practical analysis, the study divides the core competencies into professional knowledge (child development, educational psychology, curriculum design), professional skills (teaching, artistic creation, communication), and professional ethics (love, responsibility, integrity). It proposes a cultivation system integrating curriculum design (basic, professional, and elective courses accounting for 30%, 50%, and 20% of credits), teaching methods (case teaching, project-based learning, and practical internships), and assessment. The research concludes that this framework and system can effectively enhance students' comprehensive qualities, meet the needs of preschool education development, and cultivate outstanding professionals.

**Keywords:** preschool education; core competencies; theoretical framework; cultivation system

## 1. Introduction

Preschool education is fundamental to the national education system and is vital for the development of young children. Students majoring in this field must have core competencies to ensure the quality of education. These competencies are essential for professional tasks, adapting to industry changes, and promoting professional growth.

## 2. The significance of the core competencies in preschool education and teaching

Core competencies in students can enhance employability, adapt to the needs of preschool education, and promote career growth. High-quality preschool education students improve industry quality, meet diverse needs, and excellent preschool education helps cultivate future talents, laying the foundation for social progress.

## 3. Theoretical Framework of the Core Competencies of Preschool Education Students

### 3.1 Professional Knowledge Dimension

**Child Development Knowledge:** Understanding the developmental characteristics of children at various ages is crucial for designing educational activities and interventions to meet their individual needs.

**Educational Psychology Knowledge:** This includes theories and principles related to learning, motivation, and classroom management. Preschool education students can use educational psychology knowledge to understand how children learn best, how to motivate children's learning enthusiasm, and how to manage the classroom effectively to create a good learning atmosphere. [1]

**Preschool Curriculum Design Knowledge:** Students need to master the principles and methods of curriculum design, be able to develop age-appropriate preschool curriculums that integrate various fields such as language, mathematics, art, and science. [2]

**Table 1. Preschool Education Professional Knowledge Dimension and Curriculum Content**

Professional Knowledge Aspect	Specific Content
Child Development Knowledge	Physical development (motor skills, growth milestones), Cognitive development (language, thinking, problem-solving), Emotional development (emotional regulation, self-awareness), Social development (peer interaction, cooperation)
Educational Psychology Knowledge	Learning theories (behaviorism, constructivism, etc.), Motivation theories (intrinsic and extrinsic motivation), Classroom management strategies (rules setting, discipline maintenance)
Preschool Curriculum Design Knowledge	Curriculum goals setting, Content selection and organization, Teaching material development, Curriculum evaluation methods

### 3.2 Professional Skills Dimension

**Teaching Skills:** Students of preschool education should clearly plan their courses, present content vividly, and interact with children to promote learning.[3]

**Artistic Creation Skills:** Music, art, and dance are crucial forms of art in kindergarten education. Singing children's songs, painting, and choreographing children's dances enrich teaching content and stimulate children's aesthetic and creative abilities.[3]

**Communication Skills:** Good communication skills are essential for students of preschool education. They need to communicate effectively with children, understanding their needs and emotions.[3]

### 3.3 Professional Ethics Dimension

**Love and Responsibility for Children:** Preschool education students should love children, care about their health and growth, and contribute to their development.

**Integrity and Professionalism:** Preschool education students should be honest, trustworthy, and abide by professional ethics and norms. continuously improve their professional quality, and provide high-quality educational services..[4]

**Table 2. Professional Ethics Dimension**

Professional Ethics Aspect	Key Behaviors and Traits
Love and Responsibility for Children	Showing patience and kindness to children, Ensuring children's safety in all activities, Designing educational plans that meet children's development needs
Integrity and Professionalism	Being honest in teaching and research, Maintaining confidentiality of children's information, Participating in professional development activities regularly

## 4. Cultivation System of the Core Competencies of Preschool Education Students

### 4.1 Curriculum Design

**Basic Courses:** Offering foundational courses such as Child Development, Educational Psychology, and Principles of Preschool Education, students are provided with a solid theoretical foundation. These courses should be taught in a systematic and comprehensive manner to help students understand the basic concepts and theories of preschool education.

**Professional Courses:** Professional courses should encompass various aspects of kindergarten education, such as curriculum design, teaching methods, and art education. The curriculum design needs to integrate theory with practice, strengthen practical teaching, and enhance students' operational abilities.

**Elective Courses:** Provide a variety of elective courses, such as early childhood special education, preschool education management, and international preschool education trends, to meet the individual needs and interests of students and expand their knowledge horizons.[5]

**Table 3. Course design type proportion and representative courses**

Type of Course	Percentage of Total Credit Hours	Representative Courses
Basic Courses	30%	Child Development, Educational Psychology, Preschool Education Principles
Professional Courses	50%	Preschool Curriculum Design, Teaching Methods in Preschool Education, Artistic Education in Preschool
Elective Courses	20%	Early Childhood Special Education, Preschool Education Management, International Preschool Education Trends

### 4.2 Teaching Methods

**Case Teaching Method:** By analyzing real kindergarten cases, students can enhance their problem-solving and critical thinking skills, better understand the current state of kindergarten education, and learn from practice.

**Project-based Learning:** Organize students to carry out project-based learning activities, In the process of project implementation, students can exercise their comprehensive abilities, including teamwork, communication, and problem-solving abilities.

**Practice-oriented Teaching:** Strengthen practice-oriented teaching, arrange students to participate in internships in kindergartens as early as possible, Through practice, students can better understand the actual work of preschool education, improve their practical operation ability and adaptability.[6]

**Table 4. Teaching methods and objectives**

Teaching Method	Frequency of Application per Semester	Goals Achieved
Case Teaching Method	8 - 10 times	Improve problem-solving and critical thinking abilities, Bridge the gap between theory and practice
Project-based Learning	2 - 3 projects	Cultivate teamwork, communication, and comprehensive problem-solving abilities
Practice-oriented Teaching	Internship for 8 - 12 weeks per academic year	Enhance practical operation ability, Adapt to the actual work environment of preschool education

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