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STUDYING PRESCHOOL EDUCATION SCIENCE PROGRAMMES IN THE WORLD TERMS OF BASIC SCIENTIFIC PROCESS SKILLS

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Abstract

Basic scientific process skills should be thought at an early age. Because these skills are of great importance to "scientific literacy". This can be realized in pre-school education through: science programmes which are nontraditional education, triggering child's natural curiosity, supporting the child to reach the correct answer in an exploratory environment, involving activities which are play-like process. In this study: we aimed to present detailed literature knowledge on some of the pre-school education science programmes in the world and study these programmes in terms of basic scientific process skills. For this purpose: an analysis has been made as to understand how much the programmes cover BSPS, how BSPS is approached and the role of the teacher in the programmes. Case study, one model of qualitative researches, was used in the study. The findings were evaluated by content analysis method. The findings indicate that all of the science programmes that were dealt in the study cover the whole content of BSPS and that BSPS is used interdependently rather than being used one by one. The role of the teacher is seen as: supporting the students " to be active, discover, participate in the process with joy and excitement, make researches following the path of the scientists, reach the correct answers themselves, enable themselves to be science literate, guide them to make the best of their potential in applying the science activities and use a scientific language in their practices. It is seen that the teachers created "play-like environment" in which scientific experiences full of discoveries can take place and they achieved a strong development process in improving themselves by receiving constant training in order to apply the programme. It is believed that the study will shade light on the subject for the pre-school teacher candidates/ teachers / administrators and researchers.

Key words: Pre-school education, science programmes, scientific process skills.