

THE USE OF PROJECTS IN THE LEARNING PROCESS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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Abstract: *This paper was created with the aim of knowing about the use of visual aids in the learning process in early childhood education. The method used is literature review with a qualitative descriptive approach. The findings show that in early childhood education, visual aids can be expressed as learning tools that are influential in advancing aspects of child development. This is because through the use of teaching aids the subject matter conveyed by the teacher can be more easily accepted by students. Teaching aids transform abstract teaching materials into concrete and realistic ones. Procurement can help students to learn more effectively and efficiently and this can certainly improve their learning outcomes. Proper and appropriate use of teaching aids helps optimize the function of all five senses in children to increase the effectiveness of children learning by hearing, seeing, feeling, and using their minds logically and realistically. Because learning is not just dreaming in abstract areas, but as a concrete empirical process that is realistic and becomes a part of life that is not easily forgotten. The use of teaching aids in learning is adjusted between the main functions of the teaching aids and the learning objectives..*

Keywords: *Teaching aids, learning, early childhood education*

Introduction

Teaching aids are one part of the components that determine the effectiveness of learning. With the help of visual aids, abstract material can be conveyed in a more concrete and realistic manner. Procurement of visual aids is part of an effort to meet the needs of students to participate in learning according to children's learning needs. In short, the learning process requires teaching aids or learning media whose use is combined with objectives, content or topics intended to optimize the achievement of the given teaching objectives (Khadijah, 2015).

Visual aids must be used in such a way that in communication between teachers and students in terms of conveying messages, students better understand and understand the concepts of abstract or difficult to understand materials such as learning mathematics. Students who are taught understand the material more easily if it is supported by visual aids. However, before that it is necessary to understand that in the learning process using the help of visual aids it is not always possible to produce the expected results. In fact, it is also possible that the use of visual aids does not help clarify concepts, but on the contrary, for example, it makes students confused.

Therefore, a teacher needs to understand how to use teaching aids that are appropriate for the needs of students in the learning process, moreover how many students will be taught in the

realm of PAUD (Early Childhood Education), where they are in the early age range. who need the right media or teaching aids so that they can more easily understand what is being taught.

Based on the explanation above, the authors are interested in studying more about "Utilization of Teaching Aids in the Learning Process in Early Childhood Education", in a more descriptive and in-depth manner.

Literature Review

1. Definition of Props

Teaching aids are all tools used by educators to explain/demonstrate various things related to the teaching and learning process (Khadijah, 2015). Teaching aids will not function without the presence of a teacher.

2. Purpose of the Props

The several purposes of the teaching aids are stated as follows (Musa, 2018) :

- a. The visual aids aim to make the educational process more effective by increasing students' enthusiasm for learning,
- b. Teaching aids make it more suitable for individuals, where students learn with many possibilities so that learning takes place very enjoyable for each individual,
- c. Educational aids have the goal of learning faster, immediately matching between class and outside the classroom
- d. Teaching aids allow teaching to be more systematic and orderly.

3. All kinds of props

Teaching aids are grouped into two parts, namely visual and auditive. Visual aids are all learning tools that can influence a child's thinking power through observing the five senses by showing real objects, imitation objects, pictures and the like. Meanwhile, auditive teaching aids are tools that can influence children's thinking by explaining, explaining, giving examples and so on (Wahyuni, 2021).

In summary, the learning process requires teaching aids or media whose use is integrated with the objectives and content or subject matter intended to optimize the achievement of a predetermined teaching objective.

4. The function of props (Falahudin, 2014)

- a. The function of props for children. Among others are:
 - 1) Focusing the child's attention
 - 2) Attract children's interest in learning
 - 3) Facilitate mastery of subject matter
 - 4) Stimulate children's thinking and reasoning
 - 5) Increase children's imagination and creativity
- b. The function of teaching aids for teachers: Among them:
 - 1) Facilitate the delivery of abstract subject matter.
 - 2) Expanding the scope of subject matter
 - 3) Facilitate the achievement of learning objectives
 - 4) Creating a conducive learning atmosphere.
 - 5) Avoid learning verbalism.
 - 6) Creating effective and efficient learning

5. Selection of Props

Some things that need to be considered by the teacher in choosing the right teaching aids, namely (Pramono, 2017):

- a. Objective
- b. Subject matter
- c. Teaching and learning strategy
- d. Condition of students
- e. Developmental level of students

It is necessary to sort out the props to be used in the learning process so that these props can provide appropriate benefits in stimulating students to carry out learning activities.

Method

This paper uses the method of literature review (literary study) with a quantitative descriptive approach. Mestika states that literature or literature study can be interpreted as a series of activities related to methods of collecting library data, reading and recording and processing research materials. According to the method used, data sources were obtained from books, written articles and documents related to written studies. In connection with the data used by the author is data in the form of written works such as books, articles, etc., in collecting various data the author seeks from various sources of literature (library) by reading, studying, associating, and noting materials or materials needed to obtain information related to the discussion of the study. Data analysis is the process of selecting and collecting data obtained systematically (Sugiyono, 2019). Data analysis is done by organizing the data, dividing it into units, synthesizing, organizing it into patterns, selecting the most important data to be studied and drawing conclusions. The data analysis technique used in this research is content analysis. This analysis technique is intended to collect and analyze official documents, documents whose validity and validity are guaranteed, both statutory and policy documents as well as research results (Sadiah, 2015).

Result and Discussion

Teaching aids have long been used as a tool to help children learn in the field of early childhood education. Visual aids can help the learning process become more interesting and arouse students' interest in exploring a material (Jf & Sukiman, 2020). The benefits of using visual aids in early childhood education will be explored, along with examining the different types of visual aids available in Early Childhood Education (PAUD) and exploring the impact of visual aids on learner engagement and learning outcomes.

Early childhood education (PAUD) is a coaching effort aimed at children from birth to the age of 6 years which is carried out through the provision of educational stimuli to help physical and spiritual growth and development so that children have readiness to enter further education (Khadijah & Jf, 2021). Early childhood education can be organized through formal, non-formal and/or informal education channels. PAUD formal education pathways take the form of kindergarten (TK), raudatul atfal (RA), or other equivalent forms. Meanwhile, PAUD through non-formal education takes the form of play groups (KB), day care centers (TPA), or other equivalent forms. (Khadijah & Jf, 2022).

Learning in early childhood is a learner-oriented learning activity that is adapted to the child's age level with a number of learning experiences prepared by the teacher by preparing everything needed in the learning process including teaching aids (Khadijah & Jf, 2021). Visual aids for early childhood education as learning tools that have an effect on advancing aspects of child development. one of the props used is APE toys (Educative Game Tools) (Indriana, 2011). This tool is an educational tool that must be used by schools so that the subject matter delivered by teachers can be more easily accepted by students, especially students in pre-school institutions such as PAUD (Arsyad, 2016).

The use of visual aids in early childhood education can be beneficial for children's development, according to K Moedt and RM Holmes in their articles published in *Early Child Development and Care* (2020). Teaching aids can be used to increase a child's understanding of a concept or to provide them with a more practical approach to learning. For example, when teaching children about the human body, visual aids such as dolls, models or pictures can be used to help children visualize the concept. In addition, props can help improve imagination, creativity, and problem-solving skills. For example, by providing props such as blocks or construction toys, children can use their imagination to construct buildings or other objects. This can help encourage the development of problem-solving skills, as well as creativity and imagination. Finally, props can also help encourage social interaction between children. Props such as board games or role-playing toys can help encourage children to engage in cooperative play, which can help them develop their social and communication skills. In conclusion, the use of visual aids in early childhood education can be beneficial for children's development, because they can help grow imagination, creativity, problem-solving skills, and social interaction.

In research conducted by LB Morkink et al. (2010), various types of teaching aids available in education are examined to assess the quality of life of learners. Visual aids are objects that are used to add a visual or physical representation to a topic being discussed or taught in class, and can be real-life objects, photos, videos, or hand-drawn images. Props can be used to engage learners and provide visual aids for illustrating abstract concepts. For example, visual aids can be used to demonstrate how a machine works or to explain the various parts of a cell. Visual aids can also be used to motivate students and increase their interest in a subject. For example, visual aids can be used to explain the importance of certain scientific experiments or to make a history lesson more interesting. Visual aids can also be used to support students' understanding of the material being taught, as well as to provide a more interactive learning experience. In conclusion, visual aids are useful teaching tools that can be used to engage, motivate, and support learners in their learning.

Research by R Barrett, HA Gandhi, A Naganathan, et al (2018) shows that the use of visual aids in the classroom can increase student engagement and improve learning outcomes. In the study conducted, they identified that students were more interested in their learning material when physical visual aids were used to complement their instruction. In addition, the use of teaching aids helps students to remember the material better, because they can better visualize their learning material. Teaching aids also provide a more interactive and hands-on approach to learning, which can benefit learners of all ages. In addition, visual aids can be used to teach more difficult concepts, because they can provide concrete examples for students to learn. In the end, visual aids can be an effective way to engage students and improve learning outcomes.

The use of visual aids can play an important role in the learning process for children in the field of early childhood education. By introducing new and interesting material to the classroom, children can become more interactive and engaged in the learning process, which can increase retention and understanding of the subject matter. Therefore, the use of visual aids can be an effective method for teachers to motivate and encourage higher interest among students.

Conclusion

Based on the description above, it can be concluded that teaching aids are one of the determining components of learning effectiveness. In early childhood education, visual aids can be expressed as learning tools that have an effect on advancing aspects of child development. This is because through the use of teaching aids the subject matter conveyed by the teacher can be more easily accepted by students. Teaching aids transform abstract teaching materials into concrete and realistic ones. Procurement can help students to learn more effectively and efficiently and this can certainly improve their learning outcomes. Proper and appropriate use of

teaching aids helps optimize the function of all five senses in children to increase the effectiveness of children learning by hearing, seeing, feeling, and using their minds logically and realistically. Because learning is not just dreaming in abstract areas, but as a concrete empirical process that is realistic and becomes a part of life that is not easily forgotten. The use of teaching aids in learning is adjusted between the main functions of the teaching aids and the learning objectives

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