

## The Role of Parents in Introducing Literacy Culture for Language Intelligence in 5-6 Years-Old Children

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### Abstract

The role of parents in applying the literacy culture to 5-year-olds can be seen from the parents' efforts to get children to work at home. Children's literacy culture is closely linked to the development of child language intelligence. The family is where the intelligence of the child language is developed, which can be understood as a child's ability to understand language (to be receptive) and to convey language (expressive) and the related early acumen. The study aims to identify the roles of parents and the factors that retard parents in developing literation cultures. The study USES a qualitative descriptive approach. Data collection is done using observation techniques, interviews and documentation. Then data is prepared through the reduction, presentation and deduction stage. This study has shown that the role of parents in introducing five-year-olds' literacy cultures into literacy efforts that parents use to educate children in one form or another can thus increase child language intelligence. These research recommendations for producing more alternative reading materials so that children are interested in understanding and speaking language, and how parents condition children in literacy and mediation to become the literacy culture that parents apply to children.

**Keywords:** roles of parents, literacy culture, language intelligence, precocious children.

### A. INTRODUCTION

Parents as the child's first and main education have the most important role in guiding, educating and honing the child's development. Family education is part of the educational process outside of school which is carried out in a family environment which can provide skills and morals. Therefore, parents also have a duty to shape their children's personalities. Children's language development usually starts with the first cry until the child is able to say words. Children can become familiar with language as a medium of communication from adults when parents who are the first educators begin to introduce the use of language to children. Language intelligence is a person's ability to process and use words very well. Mastery of mature words, children's ability to understand communication actively and well is a form of linguistic intelligence or children's language. Mukhtar and Amalia's research (2019) in the field of children's education, literacy can be interpreted as the ability to read and write effectively. The ability to read and write is inherent in children as a language skill which begins with the ability to hear and speak which is acquired informally at home or in the environment around which they grow and develop, while the ability to read and write is learned formally at school. Suggate et al.'s longitudinal study. (2018) which started when participants were 19 months old and ended when they were 12–16 years old, showed that there was a relationship between vocabulary mastery, oral narrative abilities, and early literacy abilities with reading comprehension longitudinally. In summary, it was concluded that 19-month-old children's vocabulary mastery, the quality of their oral narrative abilities, and children's initial literacy abilities before school entry age

were significantly correlated with their reading comprehension even 10–16 years later. This shows that early literacy education in early childhood has an impact on children's literacy development, vocabulary mastery and understanding of reading in the future.

According to Chambers, Cheung, and Slavin (2016), the meaning of children's language intelligence recognizes the ability to read and write as an aspect of early literacy education including activities related to phonemic awareness, phonics (letter sounds), the alphabet, and writing in collaboration with games, traditional creative, art, music, drama, and story time. The facts in the field show that the implementation of PAUD still does not really refer to the stages of early childhood development (Mukhtar and Amalia, 2019). In general, implementation is focused on improving academic abilities, both in terms of memorization and reading-writing-numeracy skills, the process of which often ignores the child's developmental stages. This can have an impact on the emergence of boredom and a lack of interest in children in the future in getting to know literacy culture such as reading, listening and getting to know books. Resulting in weak intellectual abilities of children. As a parent, you have a responsibility to frequently encourage language to stimulate communication in your child. Based on this, alternative solutions are needed to introduce literacy culture to early childhood. The cooperative role of parents is needed in introducing literacy to early childhood, especially in the 5-6 year age range. Based on this, the researcher focused the writing on the problem formulation: What is the role of parents in introducing early literacy culture to improve children's language intelligence, as well as what are the inhibiting and supporting factors for literacy culture in early childhood.

## **B. RESEARCH METHOD**

This research uses a descriptive method with a qualitative approach. The descriptive method is a method that describes or describes the problem phenomenon that will be studied at this time or the current situation with the aim of finding answers about problem solving and the results carried out after exploratory activities. This research was conducted on Monday, May 29 2023, with the research subject being the role of parents in introducing literacy culture for the language intelligence of children aged 5-6 years. The data collection techniques used in this research were interviews and documentation. Interviews were conducted to determine the role of parents in introducing literacy culture for the language intelligence of children aged 5-6 years. Documentation was carried out to obtain data regarding the role of parents in introducing literacy culture for the language intelligence of children aged 5-6 years. With the aim of data collected from interviews and documentation, the overall picture can be seen, so that it will be easier to draw the right conclusions and make it easier to compile research. The presence of a researcher as a research instrument requires researchers to have extensive theory and insight, so that they are able to ask questions, analyze and construct the social situation being studied to be clearer and more meaningful. The target subjects in this research are parents who have children aged 5-6 years and are familiarizing themselves with a literacy culture at home. The purpose of selecting research subjects is to obtain as much information as possible from various sources so that the data obtained can be recognized as correct. Another consideration in selecting subjects is that the subject has time when the researcher needs information to collect data and can answer various research questions that have been formulated.

## **C. DISCUSSION**

### **1. Literacy Culture Increases Children's**

Language Intelligence Children have the right to grow and develop, play, rest, recreate and learn in an education. So, learning is a child's right, not an obligation. Parents

are obliged to provide educational facilities and infrastructure for children within the framework of the learning program. Because learning is a right, learning must be fun, conducive, and enable children to be motivated and enthusiastic.

Early literacy (emergent literacy) is the formation of reading and writing skills that are known early before children go to school. A child's initial ability to read and write is born out of the child's curiosity and high desire to know something. Apart from that, children who play with friends or siblings who are already able to read and write can also encourage children to want to be able to read and write. (Susanto, 2017)

Literacy in early childhood does not only involve reading and writing skills. Early literacy involves several communication processes in children including; reading, writing, speaking, listening or listening, seeing and finally teaching children to think logically, critically. Literacy in early childhood is at the basic stage, literacy abilities in early childhood are not abilities that children have as they get older, but rather abilities that children have because of stimulation in the family.

So a person's literacy skills are the basis for improving subsequent literacy skills. Here, literacy is an important consideration in self-development. This is because everyone has a goal of reading and writing texts. The purpose of reading and writing influences the text that is read and written.

## 2. Parents are the first education for children

Parents as educators in the family need to know and understand what and how humans are. As a parent, you must understand and know the nature of a child. When parents understand human nature, it is hoped that parents will develop a better level of awareness and understanding in educating their children. John Locke put forward his theory regarding humans, namely the tabula rasa theory. That when humans are born they are like white paper, then filled with the experiences they have gained in their lives. Based on this understanding, education has a great influence on a person. Because the education of a human child starts from the family.

According to Helmawati, in the Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary, family comes from the word family which means: group consisting of one or two parents and their children. In general, a family is a small group that has a leader and members, has a division of tasks and work, as well as rights and obligations for each member. Family is the first and main place where children learn. From their families, they learn the nature of beliefs, noble qualities, communication and social interactions, as well as life skills (Helmawati, 2014). This means that parents are the first madrasah for children. The toddler years are a period of growth and development for a child, not only in physical growth but also in his soul and social life.

The family is the first and main place for the formation and education of children. If you want to shape your child's character, habits in reading, writing, listening or listening, start by making habits that are easy for the child to follow, whether consciously or not. Mothers are children's first teachers, and children interact more often with mothers. Mothers are the ones who spend a lot of time at home teaching literacy. Mothers play a significant role in children's literacy development. Parental involvement in literacy development by providing stimulation (facilities) to young children. Apart from that, parents' literacy habits are one of the characteristics that can help introduce literacy to young children.

## 3. The Role of Parents in Introducing Literacy Culture

Early stimulation in developing literacy in young children can be done since the child is six months old or even in the womb. Many parents are mistaken in educating

young children. They believe that intelligent children are children who have language and mathematical logic skills from an early age. Parents want their children to jump to more complex skills without going through mastery of basic skills. For example, to master the ability to write, children need to have the correct pencil holding skills, correct sitting posture, eye coordination, adequate hand and adequate muscle strength. Likewise, parents in the process of introducing literacy to children aged 5-6 years, children will first become familiar with letters and numbers through media provided by parents at home. The role of parents will have an impact on the child's reading ability or language intelligence in the future. Haringey, in his research, stated that children's reading achievement is influenced by the intervention carried out by their parents. The role of parents in the process of developing or introducing their children's literacy makes a major contribution to the achievement of literacy achievements.

The role of the family According to Covey, regarding the role of the family, here are 4 important things, namely:

- a. Modeling, parents are models or role models for children. Parents have a very strong influence in terms of role modeling for their children. Whether positive or negative, parents are the first and foremost role models for children.
- b. Companion, namely the ability to establish or build relationships with children, to instill closeness and attention to children. Parents, through mentoring, can also provide supervision/control over children's behavior or habits.
- c. Organizing, a family is like a miniature company that requires teamwork, to overcome problems, tasks and meet family needs.
- d. Teachers are parents as teachers in the family environment.

In several studies, it is explained that family involvement in education has a positive impact in improving the quality of education so that it has the opportunity to create a culture of literacy at home by becoming an inspiration in creating a culture of literacy.

The role of parents can be implemented in developing a culture of literacy in children starting with modeling, parents being role models. They are an example of all good things, including reading activities at home. Before ordering children to read books, parents must first get used to reading. Furthermore, in mentoring, parents establish or build the child's relationship with literacy, the parent's understanding of reading is shared, communicated, and discussed with the child. When they start to be interested, then invite them to read. It's impossible for children to refuse. On the contrary, they will be eager to look for reading books recommended by their parents. The next stage is organizing, parents provide a mini library at home, at least there is a reading room for children. If not, parents can create a reading corner in the house. Display the books you already have in the room and add to your collection of other books. When parents have implemented these three stages, the final stage is teaching. Parents read stories, introduce books and familiarize children with literacy.

#### **D. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The aim of this research is to find out what role parents play in implementing literacy culture for the language intelligence of children aged 5-6 years. However, it must be known first regarding how parents view the importance of literacy in children's language development? Based on interviews conducted with the aim of deepening the data obtained, the following are the results of interviews with parents who have children aged 5 years:

“Literacy for children is very important. Early introduction helps children speak more fluently and avoid speech delays. Meanwhile, for children aged 5-6 years, it will be

very useful when they start learning to read at school or in other subjects. "Children who are exposed to literacy from the start tend to show a higher interest in learning and have a more controlled personality."

Judging from this, literacy culture is important in helping children speak language. However, in terms of interests, there are challenges that become obstacles for parents in implementing literacy, as parents in interviews said that:

"The challenge faced by the masses today is the existence of gadget which increasingly attracts children's attention, they are more interested in gadget than books which make children easily bored"

Gadget or technology is always a challenge that has a bad impact on children. The first bad impact of using gadgets for children is their concentration

changed. Children who are used to playing with gadgets with complex color gradations will eventually get bored of looking at books. Because children have found the gadget very interesting so they no longer look for interesting things in books. The effect is, when children study or read for 10 minutes, they immediately get bored. Another impact is in the social aspect. Their social space will be limited by gadgets. They feel they have found fun in their own lives. (Dr Umi Dayati)

From challenges there will definitely be solutions, challenges are things that inspire determination to improve the ability to overcome problems. And the way that can be done through this challenge according to the interview results is first, look for reading material that suits the child's preferences. Children like games, so buy books that contain games to stimulate children's curiosity through their sense of sight. Also adapt it to the material you want to teach your child. When you want to teach about Islam, look for books about Islam, for example stories of the prophet or role models, etc.

Furthermore, when they have received reading material, parents start maintaining reading hours, then give rewards when the child has finished reading or when the child is able to practice what is in the book in everyday life. The prize can be in the form of giving books or inviting children to visit public libraries and bookstores. Usually, if this is the case, parents will invite children to read in new places so that children will feel a different atmosphere.

Literacy development can also be packaged in play activities for children. Literacy development strategies certainly need to be adapted to the characteristics of early childhood, namely through meaningful and enjoyable play activities. Playing is the world for children. They will recognize, perceive and learn various things through playing. In playing activities, children build their literacy skills based on the experiences they encounter while playing, and they are even able to recount their experiences while playing.

In the application obtained from the interview results, parents can choose books that offer games. These games are usually adapted to the content of the book so that children are more interested and understand the content of the book they are reading. Carry out tests that are explained in the book as in the encyclopedia. Or parents can also use props such as dolls so that they feel like they are playing even though they are reading. There are many tricks and activities that parents can do to familiarize their children with literacy as stated in the pocket book on literacy development for children aged 5-6 years. The book provides many methods that parents can follow.

Literacy is very important for stimulating children's language intelligence, based on interview results, literacy has the benefit of making children's comprehension skills faster, their interest in learning becomes higher, and when communicating with children, they become braver to ask questions and express opinions. For example, when reading a book, children will analyze more about the book's content, pictures and story line. Children

will ask questions when confused and children will also tell about the books they have read.

Judging from the benefits presented, it can be concluded that a literacy culture applied to children will increase the child's language intelligence. Therefore, parents should not hesitate to try to implement a culture of literacy, don't wait to have books first before teaching literacy. Do it from books you have at home or borrow. As a parent, you must also like reading and tolerate your child's boredom while reading. Be creative in reading so that this activity becomes more interesting for children. Set time to read. Also involve fathers in introducing or teaching literacy to support children's environment so that it remains conducive to reading by providing a mini library or reading corner at home.

## **E. CONCLUSION**

Parents play an important role in creating a culture of literacy in the home environment. Early literacy involves several communication processes in children including; reading, writing, speaking, hearing or listening, seeing and finally teaching children to think logically and critically. The role of parents can be implemented in developing a literacy culture in children starting from modeling, where parents become role models. They are examples of all that is good to include in home reading. Before teaching children to read books, people are taught to read first. Furthermore, in mentoring, parents establish or build children's relationships with literacy, parents' understanding of reading is shared, communicated, and discussed with children. When they are interested, just invite them to read. The kid won't be able to resist. On the other hand, they will really want to look for reading books recommended by their parents. The next stage is organizing, parents provide a mini library at home, at least there is a reading room for children. If not, parents can create a reading corner in the house. Display the books you already have in the room and add to your other book collections. When parents have implemented these three stages, the final stage is teaching. Parents read stories, introduce standards and familiarize children with literacy.

The importance of literacy for children helps children speak more fluently and have language intelligence. Children who are exposed to literacy from the start tend to show a higher interest in learning and have more controlled personalities, children's grasping skills are faster, interest in learning is higher, and when communicating children will be more analytical, they will like to ask questions and express opinions.

Literacy development strategies certainly need to be adapted to the characteristics of early childhood, namely through meaningful and enjoyable play activities. Parents can choose books that offer games. These games are usually adapted to the content of the book so that children are more interested and understand the content of the book they are reading. Carry out tests that are explained in the book as in the encyclopedia. Or parents can also use props such as dolls so that they feel like they are playing even though they are reading. There are many tricks and activities that parents can do to familiarize their children with literacy as stated in the pocket book on literacy development for children aged 5-6 years. The book provides many methods that parents can follow.

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