## Characters Help Early Childhood In The Children's Story "Fun To Help" By Vani Diana P

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**Abstract.**Character is one of the important things that must be owned by early childhood. Character can bring children to be able to live life easily. Character is inherent in a person and cannot be possessed instantly. Therefore, it must be instilled early. This study aims to analyze and describe the characters of helping early childhood in the story entitled "Fun to Help" by Vani Diana P. Qualitative research using the type of literature research. Data collection using read and record techniques. Data analysis uses reduction techniques, data presentation, verification techniques, and conclusion making. The results showed that there are characters to help early childhood in the story "Fun to Help" by Vani Diana P, namely: Please help parents, help neighbors, and help animals.

Keywords: Characters please help, early childhood, children's stories

### **1** Introduction

The number of criminal phenomena that occur in the environment of minors is increasingly disturbing and worrying. Moreover, perpetrators and victims are children who still need assistance and supervision. Various kinds of child criminal cases have occurred, ranging from cases of bullying, violence, theft, rape, drugs, to murder. Crime committed by children and adolescents can be caused because they do not have a mature attitude. Maturity occurs after they go through or complete developmental tasks at each age. If the task of development is not passed properly, there will be obstacles and will give birth to individuals who commit various kinds of deviations from norms and morals [1]. Other factors that can also cause child crime include an unstable family environment, lack of parental supervision, problematic families, peers involved in crime, and mental instability. In addition, economic, educational, and social factors can also influence criminal acts committed by children.

In tackling the phenomenon of child criminality, governments and communities must work together to provide education, support, and assistance to children involved in crime. This can be done through social rehabilitation and reintegration programs, skills training, and improving the quality of education and a supportive social environment. As a form of providing a deterrent effect in Indonesia, criminal law for children is contained in Law No. 11 of 2012 concerning the Juvenile Criminal Justice System. [2] This law pays attention to the rights and protection of children in the juvenile criminal justice system. Among the speakers

was that children under 12 years old are considered not to have the ability to be criminally responsible and cannot be sentenced to criminal sanctions, the handling of crime cases carried out in special juvenile courts is different from the usual trial process. These things show that criminal law for children in Indonesia is based on the principle of rehabilitation and social reintegration of children into society, not solely to punish. The aim is to ensure that children involved in crime can be given opportunities to improve themselves and change their behaviour so that they can become productive and positive members of society in the future.

As adults, we understand very well that children are the next generation of the nation. Of course it is unlikely that we will give birth to children with criminal behavior. A country needs future generations who have good behavior and character to bring the country in a good direction. Therefore, efforts can be made to prevent criminal behavior in children. Prevention approaches are very important in tackling child crime. One of them can be by introducing and instilling character education starting from the family environment, school to the community environment.

In the Big Dictionary Indonesian character is defined as psychological, moral or ethical qualities that distinguish a person from others.[3] Character cultivation should be carried out from an early age. Early childhood is a golden age that should not be missed. A period when the growth and development of children occurs rapidly. Character in individuals can be a foundation for the survival of the next child. Individuals who have good character will be easier to be accepted in society. In the process of introducing character cultivation, good stimuli are needed and in accordance with the age of development. There are so many positive traits that need to be instilled in early childhood. One of them is the character please help.

Please help is an activity of helping each other, cultivating empathy for the difficulties faced by other beings is done wholeheartedly. Please help is one of the commendable attitudes that if done continuously can stick and become a person's character. To be able to become a character, a helping attitude must be accustomed from an early age. Parents and adults need to introduce and cultivate a sense of empathy to children. Various ways can be done for character recognition please help. One of them is with children's story books.

The growth of helpful behavior can be pursued with the strategy of applying the storytelling method. The storytelling method can provide a model that children can emulate to foster their positive behaviors such as sharing, helping, mutual respect and other good behaviors.[4] Children will recognize helping behavior through the attitude played by the character. Through the problems faced by the characters. In line with this, Musbukin (in Kuniawaty) explained that children will get to know various characters through the characters in the story. From there the child will know which characters can be imitated and which characters should not be imitated.[5] After reading the book, parents and children can discuss each other related to the behavior and characters in the storybook. So that children can understand about the character please help. You don't have to wait for your child to read to understand the content of the story. By being read to the book by parents, children can already know and understand the content and intent of the story book.

The introduction of characters through children's stories is in great demand by some people. Therefore, many have conducted research that is in line with the theme of this research. Among them is research conducted by Fitriatun Masruroh, et al entitled Character Building Likes to Read in Early Childhood Through Picture Story Book Media, with the results of his research explaining that by reading children will gain new information, knowledge and experience. In the global era, a lot of information is conveyed through electronic and print media that can be accessed anywhere and anytime by everyone. The ability to read is an important basic ability that must be possessed by individuals.[6] Another research was conducted by Naelil Maziyah with the research title Analysis of Spiritual Values in Character Formation in Wirodarsono's Folklore Book, with the results of the study explaining that Joko Dolok's folklore book contains 34 spiritual values that can shape students' character.[7]

Dodi Ahmad et al also explained in their research that folklore can develop characters for early childhood. This happens due to several factors, namely the teacher's ability when presenting stories, folklore has been modified so that it is simpler and easier to understand, this activity is equipped with image media as an illustration, the theme of folklore is chosen according to children's interests and children's characteristics, and the story is not too long so that children do not get bored. Character values that can be taken from some folklore are responsibility, courage, hard work, and help. Folklore provides examples to children so that they can be applied in children's daily lives.[8] The importance of introducing and instilling characters in early childhood with the many studies that have been described above, the author wants to conduct more in-depth research related to early childhood characters in children's stories with a focus on helping early childhood characters in a story entitled Fun to Help by Vani Diana P.

The children's story entitled Asyiknya Helpnya is a story written by Vina Diana P and published by a digital library application called Let's Read. Application created by The Asia Foundation through the Books for Asia program. This application was created to deliver educational content to children in the language they use at home and school with easy access. As in the title, this story tells about a character played by early childhood who has a penchant for help. Help anyone they can. From this story, it is hoped that it can be one of the media to introduce and instill the character of help for early childhood.

## 2 Method

This research uses a type of descriptive qualitative research with library research methods. A text study that focuses on explaining and studying in depth the content of a children's story entitled Asyiknya Helpnya by Vina Diana P published by Let's Read. Collection of information sources for research purposes by reading and recording. Read the story entitled Fun to Help in its entirety. Then understand and record and collect various information needed to analyze directly related to character help early childhood. Furthermore, data analysis is carried out by collecting, conceptualizing, and sorting or filtering relevant data. From these activities, researchers will find important information or data and will conclude the results and discussion.[9]

## **3** Result and Discussion

Many events and attitudes from characters in children's stories will provide educational learning to stimulate good attitudes and characters for children.[10] As in the children's story entitled Asyiknya Help, it tells the story of 2 children's characters named Salih and Saliha.

Both of them are very fond of helping anyone. Helping parents, helping neighbors also helping animals. The attitude of helping that both do if done continuously will become a habit that can later form into a character, a character of helping help. Children who are accustomed to helping each other will grow empathy in them. The existence of empathy makes children have social sensitivity. Social sensitivity is very important for individuals in the community. Because this will make individuals acceptable in society. Similarly, this story has characters who have characters that can be introduced and instilled in children, namely the character of please help. The helpful character is described in this story as follows:

### **3.1 Please help to parents**

Help is done to help others who are in difficulty and need others. The attitude of helping can be done by anyone and to anyone. So it is by early childhood. Early childhood who takes a helping attitude can be due to habituation that has been done repeatedly and becomes a character of the child. When the child sees or finds something that needs help, he immediately helps. The attitude of helping can be done to anyone, one of which is to parents. Like the following story quote:

Mrs. Ponirah seemed busy picking up her shopping that had fallen from plastic. "Come on, let's help Mrs. Ponirah," said Saliha.

# (Mrs. Ponirah seemed busy picking up her shopping that had fallen from plastic. "Come on, let's help Mrs. Ponirah," said Saliha.)

Childhood is a glorious time that should not be missed. This period is often referred to as the golden age. A period where the growth and development of children occurs rapidly in all aspects. One of them is the aspect of social-emotional development. Providing stimulus in accordance with child development can be one effort to develop it. Stimulus is given by introducing moral behaviors that are then habituated. The refractions carried out can form into a daily behavior that will be prepared for children to face the next life. Helping parents can help children develop skills and independence. In addition, in helping parents, children can strengthen family relationships. When children help their parents, they can build closer and closer relationships, thus creating strong family bonds.

In order to form a helping attitude in children, parents can set an example by giving small tasks that are appropriate for children's age and abilities, providing positive motivation, and giving rewards or praise when they succeed in helping parents. This can help children develop a sense of responsibility, independence, and mutual help that is important for their future social lives.

### 3.2 Please help the animals

Please help is not only done to fellow human beings but can also be done to fellow creatures. Like animals and plants. As fellow beings we have an obligation to help each other. There are many reasons individuals want to help. Among them are because of empathy, hoping for kindness, reducing difficulties and so on. Each individual has their own reasons. Help to animals is more often done because the characteristics or living conditions are almost the same as humans. Such as eating, drinking, having offspring, and so on. As in the following excerpt from the story when the characters Salih and Saliha help a cat:

Ketika Salih dan Saliha akan pergi, terdengar suara kucing dari selokan. "Wah, ada anak kucing dalam selokan. Kakak coba keluarkan," kata Saliha

(When Salih and Saliha were about to leave, there was a cat sound from the sewer. "Boy, there is a kitten in the gutter. Brother try to get it out," Saliha said)

The attitude taken by the character Saliha helps get a cat out of the ditch because he sees the cat in trouble. Saliha's sensitivity made her empathy grow and she immediately wanted to help. This kind of attitude and sensitivity is not necessarily shared by all children. Children need to be given an understanding of helpful behavior. An attitude of help that can be done to anyone, including animals and plants. After being given understanding, children will begin to be accustomed to doing this. From these habituations that will later become character and attached to the child. Helping animals shows kindness and empathy. Children who learn to care and care for animals will most likely become more empathetic and caring adults for the environment.

Helping animals can also teach children about responsibility. When they take care of animals, they learn to be responsible and respect other living things. In order to form caring attitudes towards animals, children can be taught about how to raise pets, respect animal life, and pay attention to animal welfare. It is important to reinforce the understanding that all living things in this world are interrelated and must be respected.

#### **3.3 Please help neighbors**

Helping neighbors is a good action and beneficial for social life in the environment around us. Helping neighbors can help build togetherness and good relationships between neighbors. In helping each other, people can get to know each other and build mutual trust and support between them. To build a helping attitude in children and adults, we can set an example by doing small actions that can help neighbors, such as helping with groceries, caring for their plants or pets, or even just offering help when there is a need. This can help build togetherness and trust among neighbors, as well as improve quality of life and safety in the neighborhood. Help to neighbors is also done by the character in the following story quote:

Sali dan Saliha senang menolong tetangga di rumah. Sali dan Saliha selalu ramah dan sopan kepada tetangga mereka.

(Sali and Saliha enjoys helping neighbors at home. Sali and Saliha are always friendly and polite to their neighbors.)

Children need to be taught to help neighbors because this is a good action and beneficial for social life in the environment around us. When children help neighbors, they learn to understand the needs and feelings of others. This can help children develop empathy and care for others. Helping neighbors can also help strengthen the social relationships of children in the neighborhood. When children get to know each other and help each other, they can build a good relationship and support each other. In order to form a helping attitude in children, parents can set an example by doing small actions that can help neighbors, as well as provide positive motivation and appreciation when children succeed in helping neighbors. This can

help children develop empathy, independence, and social values that are important for their future social lives.

## **4** Conclusion

The character please help early childhood in a children's story entitled Fun to Help by Vani Diana P contains several characters please help, namely help parents, help animals, and help neighbors. These characters can be introduced to early childhood through children's stories.

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