

Early Childhood Communication Skills Through Playdough

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Abstract. Early childhood ability to communicate is important to be stimulated. Children will have the opportunity to be able to communicate and do activities with more confidence. Stimulating children's communication skills can be done through play activities, such as playing playdough. Children are given the freedom to be creative using playdough and then asked to present it. In this study invited children aged 4-5 years accompanied by 4 teachers. When the child is asked to explain the objects that the child produces, the child tells about things that exist in the child's daily life. When compared to classes that do not use playdough games, namely using picture cards, it is found that classes that use playdough in their game activities provide greater opportunities for children to produce words.

Keywords: Children, Communication, Playdough.

1 Introduction

Early childhood is based on Indonesian government regulations, namely the age range from 0 to 6 years and at ages up to 8 years according to figures in the field of early childhood education. For children at this age, it can be stated that this is a period when children are in the process of increasing their physical growth and developing their abilities which have their own characteristics. Each child has specific achievements and types of growth and development according to each child's level of growth and development. Early childhood children are different, unique individuals and have their own characteristics according to their age stages. Children in the age range of 0 to 6 years are the golden age which is an important period to be able to develop and be able to stimulate aspects related to physical growth and developmental achievements. Which play an important role in each achievement of subsequent developmental tasks. The early period in a child's continued development and growth is an important period and needs to be stimulated in a child's life span. Currently, cognitive growth is undergoing physical development. In other words, early childhood is in the stage of physical growth and development in the aspect of developing his abilities. That begins prenatally, that is, from the womb. The formation of children's neurons in brain cells is the basis for forming readiness for physical growth and intelligence in children which begins when the child is still in the womb. After the child is born, the formation of nerve cells in the child's brain no longer occurs, but the connections between the brain's nerve cells continue to develop and influence the child's continued physical growth. Early childhood has certain age limits, unique characteristics, and is in a very rapid and fundamental development process for later life [1].

So far, early childhood is called the golden age and continues to develop rapidly. This development begins prenatally, namely in the womb.

The education and learning given to children is a process that pays attention to stimulation based on physical growth and development, namely on aspects of fine motor and gross motor coordination, apart from that it also focuses on aspects of the development of children's religious values, moral education, cognitive and intelligence, spoken and written language, social emotions and arts in early childhood. Children at this age stage are individuals who are undergoing the process of rapid growth and development and are important for their next life tasks. Currently, the process of growth and development in various aspects is experiencing an important period in the range of achievements of growth and development in human life. The process of learning and education for children is one. The form of treatment given in the form of activities for early childhood must be adjusted to take into account the characteristics of each stage of development and the child's physical condition. Children at an early age has different characteristics from adults, because early childhood children grow and develop in many and different ways. Early childhood has the characteristics of 1) is egocentric which occurs during social interactions, 2) has social relationships with objects and people who are simple and need to be accompanied, 3) there is a physical and spiritual unity that is almost inseparable as a totality, 4) a positive attitude towards life. physiognomy, namely children directly interpret the physical or material attributes/characteristics of each experience.

The characteristics of early childhood can be noted as follows: 1) have a great sense of curiosity, 2) be individuals who have their own characteristics, 3) have good imagination, 4) have motivation in activities, 5) have an egocentric attitude that can be seen in social life, 6) has a vulnerability to low concentration power and is easily distracted, 7) enjoys socializing. Having a high curiosity, every child has a sense of interest in things captured by their five senses. This is what causes him to often ask questions and likes to do new things in his life. Example: taking apart toys. Unique, every child has different hobbies, interests and talents. Therefore, children cannot be compared to each other. Each child must receive stimulation according to their own uniqueness. Like to imagine, young children also have a tendency to imagine and fantasize [2], for example: making objects around them into playing tools. For example, a broom becomes a stick, a chair becomes a stage, and so on. Having an egocentric attitude, you need to know that children see everything based on their own point of view, so they usually appear to be imposing their own will. However, as we get older, this attitude will decrease if we stimulate it well. Likes to imitate, this can be seen when children like to copy everything in their surroundings, for example children often try make-up because they often see their mother putting on make-up. This age is an important and urgent period, because this is a time when children experience very rapid growth and development and cannot be replaced later in life. Based on various studies in the field of neurology on human development achievements, it is proven that 50% of children's intelligence is formed before the age of five. Then after the child is eight years old, the child's achievements have been perfect.

Human development is a process of qualitative change experienced by children in the process of mastering more complex levels of various aspects of development. One important aspect of development is language development. According to Vygotsky, language is a medium for expressing ideas and asking questions, language also creates concepts in the category of thinking, besides that language is also a very important communication tool in human life [3]. One aspect of development that occurs in early childhood is language development.

Language development includes several elements including speaking, listening, writing and reading skills. Language allows children to learn symbols to achieve development and thinking. Thus, language is a very important aspect because it functions as a tool for thinking and expressing oneself. The ability to communicate, namely the aspect of language development, is closely related to the achievement of a child's cognitive abilities, even though initially language and thinking are two aspects that are not the same but go hand in hand. However, along with children's cognitive development, language becomes an expression of thoughts. Language development is closely related to cognitive development. This can be seen from the language skills of early childhood. Based on the phase of cognitive development, the child is in the rational phase. Language is one aspect of development that must be developed in early childhood 4-5 years because language is a medium for children to communicate so they can become part of their social group. Language can be in the form of images, spoken, written, signed. Language skills include children's ability to listen, speak, read and write. The development of children's language skills will also make it easier for us to recognize children's own emotions. Language is one of the highest achievements achieved by humans [5]. Although some animals have some kind of communication system, only humans have developed a verbal or verbal form, or spoken speech. Language allows young children to be able to enjoy the experiences that children gain into symbols that can be used for communication and thinking activities when children engage in social interactions. [6]. Children acquire language skills from birth to age 6, they never learn language, let alone vocabulary in particular. However, by the end of their early childhood, the average child has retained more than 14,000 vocabulary words.

Language development, especially in interaction, plays an important role in social development, especially in child interaction. Spoken language also provides the ways necessary for mental representation or in Vygotsky's terms "verbal mediation" (the ability to label objects and processes, which is necessary for the development of concepts, generalizations and thinking). A child's ability to use language in thinking and socializing is the starting point for important development which will later help children solve various new problems, not just because they want to try and then the child does not continue their activities. The total vocabulary acquired by children before 2 years is around 50 words. This number will explode once adults communicate with real words and are able to interpret children's words. If not, the child will focus on "parole" and this will have an effect on his desire to communicate. After this age, children will acquire 50 words per month and by the end of kindergarten will have reached 8000 to 14,000 words [7]. Talking is the main means of socializing. Children who communicate easily make social contact easier and are more easily accepted (as group members). Speaking is a means of gaining independence. Children who cannot express their wishes will always be helped and are not considered independent. This prevents children from becoming confident and independent.

Early childhood language is an activity that includes the ability to express things, hear and understand language and can also be done by reading pictures where reading is an activity that can express language in early childhood and is carried out by early childhood. Reading is a fun activity for children if in reading there is something interesting for children such as pictures. Children can also be creative in developing reading that is seen from pictures that have meaning in writing. Learning a very crucial language occurs in children before 6 years. Therefore, kindergarten or pre-school education is a very important vehicle for developing children's language. Children acquire language from the family environment and from the community environment. Good language development for them, can increase vocabulary quickly. Children will learn how to participate in conversations and use their language to solve

problems. Using language to communicate with other people, children will gain a lot of vocabulary, while also being able to express themselves through language. Language as a sound system that is arbitrary (whichever one likes) is used by society in the context of cooperation, interaction and self-identification [8]. A child can learn language in various ways from his learning community. When a child is silent while listening to parents or friends talking or seeing and reading pictures or writing, they can understand language based on the concept of knowledge and experience they have acquired. The child starts to growl or cooing, that is, repeating meaningless sounds repeatedly, like the sound of a bird singing. After that, children begin to learn sentences with one word such as "maem" which means asking for food and "cucu" which means asking for milk. Children generally learn the names of objects around them before other words. From the definition above, it can be concluded that language is a tool for expressing ideas and as a means of communication or communication between individuals to express opinions, feelings and desires.

Development in early childhood is a qualitative change that lasts a lifetime and is influenced by various interacting conditions, such as the child's physical growth achievements. Language is a system of symbols for communication which includes phonology (producing sounds), morphology (in the form of meaning), syntax (units of language structure), semantics (variations in the use of meaning), and pragmatics (use of language in interaction). With language, Children can convey and describe themselves to the people around them [9]. Language is a communication tool for every party who does not know the background and age of the individual. Through language, children can express their ideas so that other people can understand and digest the things conveyed to the child, so that this can help children carry out learning activities and carry out exploration. The language used by early childhood children is characteristic in conveying ideas about children's needs and the objects around them. The presentation of language is characterized by symbolic meaning.

Speaking in the aspect of language development is an achievement when humans can convey one's intentions to others using spoken and written language. Communication that uses articulation or words to convey meaning. There are so many roles of speaking in aspects of child development. Apart from playing a role in their individual abilities, children who have the ability to speak also have an influence on their adjustment to their peer environment, so that they can be accepted as members of the group [10]. A child's ability to communicate will also have an impact on his intelligence and life skills. Usually children who have high intelligence will be able to learn to speak easily, quickly understand conversations or interactions with other people and have a larger vocabulary compared to children who have lower cognitive abilities. Communication in social interaction is a process in conveying things related to the child.

Language is a very important communication tool in human life, because besides functioning as a tool to express thoughts and feelings to other people, it is also a tool to understand other people's feelings and thoughts. Communication is a process of exchanging information between individuals through a system of symbols, signs, or behavior [11]. Ability is rational behavior to achieve stated goals in accordance with expected conditions. In general, the ability to communicate can be defined as conveying one's intentions (ideas, thoughts, thoughts or contents of one's heart) to other people using spoken language so that the meaning can be understood by other people. Communication skills cannot be separated from speaking skills. Speaking skills are a child's ability to pronounce articulatory sounds or words to express, express and convey thoughts, ideas and feelings.

Language skills are one of the areas of basic ability development that teachers have prepared to improve children's abilities and creativity according to their stage of development.

The development of language skills aims to ensure that children are able to express their thoughts using simple language accurately, are able to communicate effectively and arouse interest in being able to speak Indonesian. In accordance with basic language competency standards, children are able to listen, communicate verbally, have a vocabulary and know the symbols that represent them in preparation for reading and writing. The development of language skills should use an approach that is guided by an activity program that has been prepared and is oriented towards the principles of child development, children's needs, playing while learning, using a thematic, creative and innovative approach, a conducive environment, and developing life skills.

A child's world is a world of play, namely a world full of interesting things. Something that can be done by children full of motivation and enthusiasm which is associated with a pleasant mood and physical condition. Children will hate and stay away from unpleasant situations. Playing is every child's right. Play is a place for children to express all forms of behavior that is fun and without coercion. Playing is an activity that must be done by young children because it is work for children, just like adults work in their daily lives. Playing is exhilarating, fun, and definitely done repeatedly. Playing in early childhood functions to matters relating to children's achievements [12]. Playing will have a positive impact if the games played are suitable for children, are educational, comply with the rules and there are adults (educators or parents) who supervise, guide, direct and of course understand the meaning of play for young children, such as understanding the theory of play, benefits, functions and various games suitable for children.

Playing is an activity carried out by children throughout the day and throughout the child's growth and development process, because for children playing is life, and life is playing for them. Early childhood cannot differentiate between playing, learning and working in their lives. Children generally really enjoy playing activities and will continue to do so whenever they have the opportunity. Playing for children is a serious activity that is carried out by children on an ongoing basis and can be done with repetition as long as the child enjoys the activity and gives someone pleasure/satisfaction and meaningfulness. Play activities carried out by children can be stated as a place for children to carry out social interactions. It is hoped that through play activities packaged according to children's development stages, they will have the opportunity to explore, observe, express feelings, be creative and learn in a fun way. Apart from that, playing activities can train and make it easier for children to learn and find out about things related to themselves. Playing is a necessity for children, because through playing children will gain knowledge that can develop their abilities. Playing is a unique activity and very different from other activities such as studying and working which are always done to achieve an end result. Playing is a place for active learning that involves the whole mind, body and soul. Until the age of nine, children learn and are stimulated at the most appropriate pace when they are totally involved in activities. Play expresses and brings out the emotional aspects of everyday experiences. The play activities that children do are very varied, and each play activity stimulates part of their brain, so it is not an exaggeration if various games can be used as appropriate materials and ways to stimulate children's intelligence. Even though the main purpose of playing for children is to have fun, intellectual stimulation still has a good effect on children's growth and development.

Playdough is play dough made from flour. This play tool is safe for children and can develop all aspects of early childhood development. Making playdough can train young children's fine motor skills. Young children can use their hands and fingers as well as tools to shape objects that children design. Through experience in this activity, children are given the opportunity to develop hand-eye coordination and dexterity and finger strength which can

stimulate children's motoric development which can have an impact on writing and coloring skills [14]. Playdough (play-doh) is play dough) or play plasticine which is a modern form of clay toys. Games that use playdough are easy to use and play and are liked by toddlers and children. By using playdough, children can express their creativity through three-dimensional creations. Here's how to make hygienic playdough with colors and aromas you can choose yourself. Playdough is an activity that is beneficial for children's brain development. By playing with playdough, children not only get pleasure, but it is also useful for improving their brain development. With playdough, children can make any shape with molds, color playdough and form patterns. Playdough is one of the educational game tools in learning which includes the criteria for cheap game tools and has the value of flexibility in designing patterns to be formed according to plans and imagination.

Playdough games have benefits for children, namely training sensory abilities. One way children know something is through touch. By playing playdough, he learns about textures and how to create things, developing thinking skills. Playing playdough can hone children's thinking skills [15]. Practice with examples of how to play and create something with playdough, self esteem in the game playdough is a game without rules so it is useful for developing children's imagination and creativity abilities by playing playdough, it can increase curiosity, as well as teach them about problem solving which is useful for improving their self esteem and hone language skills. Squeezing, rolling to make a ball, and spinning are some of the words that children often hear when playing playdough. Use words to describe playdough activities. There are benefits to playdough, namely that children have the opportunity to be creative with playdough which can make children smarter, apart from honing their imagination, fine motor skills, logical and systematic thinking, it can also stimulate their sense of touch [16]. The flexibility and softness of the playdough material trains children to regulate finger muscle strength. Children learn to treat this media by simply pressing gently and carefully. Playing with playdough can train fine motor skills, build muscle strength in children's hands which will later be useful when learning to use pencils and scissors.

2 Research Methods

The aim of this research is to stimulate children's ability to communicate by using play equipment in the form of playdough for children aged 4-5 years. In the activities carried out, children are given learning activities in the form of activities that invite children to use clay to create shapes based on objects that children can easily find around them. The number of early childhood children who took part in activities in the implementation of learning was forty children.

There is a part that is paid attention to and prioritizes the behavior that appears in each child when carrying out game activities. After the child forms clay based on the shapes that the child is interested in learning, they are asked to explain the products that the child has made from the clay. The indicators used by researchers when paying attention to children's language ability behavior when explaining clay products are speaking fluency, clarity of articulation and completeness of sentences when children communicate. Each indicator consists of three sub-indicators with a minimum score of 1 and a maximum of 4.

3 Results and Discussion

Research that was carried out with forty children and two teachers in playing with clay showed good results on children's ability to explain objects that children had formed from clay. Based on this, it can be seen in table 3.1.

Table 1. Stages of Language Development Achievements for Children Aged 4-5 Years

<i>Preliminary Data</i>	
Mean of Data	3,7
Standard Error of Data	0,062
Median of Data	3
Mode of Data	3
Standard Deviation of Data	0,323
Sample Variance of Data	0,181
Range of Data	1
Minimum of Data	1
Maximum of Data	4
Sum of Data	421
Count of Data	40

Found of the research, the list of which are listed in table 3.1, show that the achievement of communication skills in children 4-5 years old has an average value of 3.7, which means that using clay can be interpreted as developing very well. There are satisfactory achievements with the help of clay play tools, it is more easy for them to explain objects based on the experiences that children have in their daily lives. In clay making activities, children generally form pictures of people, fruit, food and animals. These objects have meaning for the child. During the implementation of the activity, children felt happy and enthusiastic in carrying out the game process. Activities given to children can be carried out in an orderly manner and create a pleasant atmosphere for children, teachers and researchers.

Language is the initial factor that determines whether children can communicate with their environment. Unfortunately, quite a few parents neglect this stage of development, so it is not uncommon for parents to only become aware of it when their child is 4-5 years old. Every child has a LAD (Language Acquisition Devic), namely the child's natural ability to speak. The early years of childhood are an important period for learning language. Talking is an important thing that can express cognition and information that children obtain when children interact with other people. Children who are going through a learning process will convey things related to the child.

Through communication, they still can express ideas, notions, thoughts, and can communicate with other people. Communication is a need for early childhood who are experiencing achievements in growth and development to be able to express their feelings through words that have a certain meaning so that other people can understand them. Children will gain experience learning about the language of the environment around where they live by imitating the speaking styles of the adults around them too. Sometimes it is not easy to optimize children's speech intelligence because every child is born unique with their own strengths and weaknesses.

When learning activities take place in class when the teacher tells stories and asks questions to the children, the children are not yet able to answer the questions clearly and there are some children who communicate less verbally/speak and express signs more.

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