

## The urgency of learning English is taught from an early age

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### ABSTRAK

Anak-anak usia dini saat ini memiliki akses ke media digital yang berbasis bahasa Inggris. Oleh karena itu, ada rencana yang harus diterapkan untuk mengoptimalkan perkembangan bahasa Inggris anak usia dini. Penelitian ini melibatkan 14 anak dari kelas A1, 12 anak dari kelas A2, dan 1 guru bahasa Inggris di RA Nurul Hikmah Lenteng. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah deskriptif kualitatif. Penelitian di RA Nurul Hikmah Lenteng menunjukkan bahwa pembelajaran bahasa Inggris menjadi bagian dari proses belajar mengajar dan memberikan dorongan kepada siswa sejak dini di sekolah. Data dikumpulkan melalui dokumentasi, wawancara, dan observasi. Pembelajaran bahasa Inggris melalui bernyanyi, bermain, tanya jawab, dan menggunakan perangkat kelas. Anak berhasil meningkatkan kemampuan bahasa Inggrisnya dengan cara ini.

#### ABSTRACT

Early childhood children today have access to English-based digital media. Therefore, there is a plan that must be implemented to optimize early childhood English language development. This research involved 14 children from class A1, 12 children from class A2, and 1 English teacher at RA Nurul Hikmah Lenteng. The research method used is descriptive qualitative. Research at RA Nurul Hikmah Lenteng shows that learning English is part of the teaching and learning process and provides encouragement to students from an early age at school. Data was collected through documentation, interviews and observation. English learning through singing, playing, asking questions and using classroom equipment. Children succeed in improving their English skills in this way.

## INTRODUCTION

Language development is a process that controls the human left brain in language and speaking, which is very important for humans. This is taught at an early age so that people can pronounce simple words to sentences that are fluent and understood by the person they are talking to (Sabaniah et al., 2021). Language is an important tool for communication, and being able to communicate fluently is an advantage for children. A person will face difficulties in interacting with people around them if they face difficulty speaking a foreign language.

Even though English is a foreign language in Indonesia, it is very important for children to be taught it from an early age. This may be because English is an international language used all over the world, which makes it easier to communicate outside Indonesia (Oktaria & Putra, 2020). To encourage the introduction of learning in early childhood, many formal schools for children have implemented this from an early age. This can include learning vocabulary, fruits, and the alphabet



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and numbers (Pangastuti et al., 2020). In addition, it can teach through pictures that have vocabulary or objects that speak English. Apart from that, you can use animated videos that speak English.

According to Qadafi (2020), English is an international language recognized by the world, and everyone who visits foreign countries uses this language to communicate with people at home. This language is very important for everyone. The results of teaching children from an early age will have an impact on their growth and development in communicating with other people. Even though children may not be able to speak sentences in English, they will at least master the words, but providing consistent education will have an impact. Teaching English to early childhood will be different from teaching it to children from elementary to high school. This is because young children must receive lessons in an interesting and entertaining way so that they remain interested in what they are learning. In addition, young children's concentration only lasts 5 to 10 minutes, so stimulation must be combined with interest so that children do not get bored while learning (Ulfa & Na'imah, 2020).

Different views about instilling English in children from an early age are different because, according to Penfield in the theory of brain mechanisms, early age is the right time to teach children a foreign language other than their mother tongue (Dewi, 2020). Because children's brains are able to receive stimulation well at an early age, it makes sense to provide various types of stimulation to improve children's language skills and other aspects of development (Umi et al., 2020). Apart from that, there are bad opinions about early childhood being taught English. This is because young children are playing, and it would be burdensome if asked to introduce English or other foreign languages (Satrianingrum et al., 2021). However, as parents and teachers, we must make plans to develop English in children from an early age so that they are not too early (Satrianingrum et al., 2021). PAUD is the beginning of formal education for children so that it can provide the best and most appropriate stimulation and education for children from an early age (Zahroh & Na'imah, 2020). PAUD is able to help children's development stages so that they can hone all aspects of children's development from an early age. PAUD provides students with various facilities, ranging from infrastructure to educational play equipment and game areas provided in the school field to train aspects of children's development. In addition, teachers must have the ability to monitor children while playing in the school environment. This is due to the fact that young children have high curiosity, and they will try various games available at school (Nurul Fadlilah et al., 2021).

Parents and teachers can use various methods to improve children's English skills from an early age. Therefore, it is very important to provide appropriate stimulation to children from an early age, without forcing their abilities because every child's abilities are different. The important thing is to provide stimulation painstakingly and as often as possible so that it can stick to the child's brain so that they can practice English better in the future (Mufaziah & Fauziah, 2020). Parents who are responsible for providing education have begun to understand how important it is for children to go to formal school from an early age. They also know that teachers will provide the right stimulation to their children while they go to formal school (Wiresti, 2020). If stimulated by teachers at school, children studying at PAUD between 4 and 6 years old are the right age to socialize with their peers. According to Rozie et al. (2019), the reason why formal education is very important for children is to introduce them to their environment. Early childhood children are in the golden phase, when they will experience a golden age that will not be repeated twice, so teachers must design the most appropriate education for these children into adulthood (Mutiani & Suyadi, 2020).

The development of early childhood language skills requires teachers' understanding of how to use English with children when introducing the language (Aisya et al., 2020). because children



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need concrete actions to help them understand the meaning of words in Indonesian (Afnida & Suparno, 2020). How teachers choose methods to achieve students' goals at school is very influential. Children go through certain phases in age, so they need to be given stimulation from an early age to help them optimize their growth and development. If given regularly, it will be easier for children to learn English from an early age, which will help them when they grow up and become competitive later in life. According to Chandra (2018), teachers must also choose learning strategies that will be interesting and easy for children to receive teaching materials in class. Creative teachers will have an impact on the learning process and provide stimulation to children. They will teach English to young children gradually in class and help with media and educational games to support English learning (Tiolina Siregar & Tarigan, 2021). If there are no appropriate methods to optimize children's language abilities, it will have a negative impact on how children learn from teachers and how teachers influence their ability to understand (Umi et al., 2020).

Parents and teachers must realize that the world of early childhood is just play, and they must provide games that contain learning. Play complements learning. However, playing makes children happy, comfortable, and creates a pleasant home atmosphere so that children are comfortable playing, learning, and chatting with parents and other family members. Parents must realize how important it is to educate children from an early age so that children grow up to be friendly and close to parents and other family members. Because it is not easy to build warm feelings in a family, warm feelings built by children at an early age can play a positive role in their growth. It is very important for parents to supervise their children as they grow up by becoming friends with their parents, because children will become fun and close people to the family. because emotional closeness has been formed and maintained since childhood until adulthood. Some parents forget the importance of bringing their children closer to their parents from an early age, so that they can form strong inner bonds when they grow up.

## METHOD

### Research design

Descriptive qualitative methods were used in this research. This research involved teachers and 14 class A students and 12 class B students RA Nurul Hikmah. This research begins with collecting data, reducing data, presenting data, and drawing conclusions.

First, data is collected through interviews, observation and documentation. In this research, we used direct observation at RA Nurul Hikmah to see how children learn, looked at the school environment, conducted interviews with the principal and homeroom teachers for classes A and B, and carried out documentation at RA Nurul Hikmah. Researchers see firsthand how teachers help students understand, teach and stimulate them. Teachers regularly teach and provide English language stimulation through the media they provide, such as animated videos, pictures, movements and songs, as well as English books. School infrastructure is very important for the success of student learning because learning without media will be less effective. The school provides everything necessary for teaching. Then, reduce and present the data to analyze it by triangulation. Apart from that, the final step is to draw conclusions or verify the final results from the data that has been collected.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results of the observations produced data about the development of English among students at RA Nurul Hikmah by getting the children used to mentioning vocabulary from objects around the school, so that the children become familiar with the vocabulary. Teachers at RA Nurul



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Hikmah use learning strategies such as giving because the brain of young children is very good if stimulated in the right way and gradually, not continuously. Learning must be gradual, routine and habitual for school age children and in the classroom. In accordance with school policies and different learning themes every week, teachers teach and improve students' English skills.

The results of interviews with school principals show that implementing an English-based learning approach in early childhood is very appropriate because this is a golden age that only comes once in a lifetime. The school will be committed to providing the best for the children at RA Nurul Hikmah. Learning that is carried out in a fun way will provide a different atmosphere so that children do not feel pressured when the teacher provides teaching materials. Teachers will implement fun play and learning lessons for children so that children feel happy following each teacher's lessons. Like singing the names of animals, plants, and so on in English

Additionally, it is important for teachers to talk to the principal and other teachers before providing course materials to their students. This is done to determine the most appropriate learning approach for children and ensure that English language stimulation is provided correctly to students. By helping children learn vocabulary in English, teachers can help them expand their incomplete vocabulary in Indonesian. This will allow children to communicate well later in life even if they still stutter. This is normal because introducing English to children from an early age is good, but communicating fluently requires time and a long process. During the teaching and learning process, teachers must provide regular stimulation to students. This will help children become familiar with the teacher's learning process every day. By providing learning media, teachers must also help children understand what they are learning.

The results of this research show that teachers use English teaching strategies such as singing, showing animated videos, coloring, and introducing pictures in English. According to previous research, English language development methods refer to classroom teaching methods (Hasanah & Ulya, 2020). This teaching method allows children to unconsciously learn to use English in daily activities. so that children's English skills become better and better. Good English skills can help children interact with technological environments that mostly use English. Basic English language skills are essential to communicate with others in an easy and common way. Education must start from an early age and be facilitated by parents and teachers at school.

English learning strategies by introducing words according to themes, such as objects, animals, plants and food, help children learn English. Helping students understand the teaching material that has been delivered by the teacher is the teacher's responsibility. However, explanations for young children must be conveyed clearly and use language that is not long-winded so that children can understand the lesson material (Windarsih et al., 2017). Teachers must be able to pay attention to their students in ways such as providing motivation to learn and encouraging students when they experience difficulties in learning. It is very beneficial to encourage children from an early age, because children will feel the attention given to them, which will re-energise their enthusiasm for learning. Children really need moral support from those closest to them, especially from their parents. This is because children really need to feel loved and encouraged by those closest to them. In addition, because they are raised in families, children will become friendly people, and a friendly environment will provide encouragement and inspiration that is very important for their lives.

Teaching and learning in the classroom is a daily activity where teachers must monitor student development in all aspects to be supervised. Meetings with parents can also show whether the child's growth and development is increasing, stable, or decreasing, so that there is good communication between parents and teachers (Hasfira & Marelda, 2021). Teachers can encourage children to learn





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new skills, such as learning English at school. This can foster their curiosity due to the fact that young children are very interested in new things and have a high curiosity (Kurniawan & Hermawan, 2016). It is very important to take advantage of this opportunity—early childhood children have the opportunity to receive positive stimulation and be properly educated by teachers at school. In addition, educators can teach children to be polite to people older than them, such as parents, family members, teachers, and people in their environment. It is very important to implement basic education from an early age, as well as providing moral education to children from an early age.

It is very important for teachers to provide education and hone children's abilities in all aspects of child development. Both children's activities in class and in the school environment are supervised by teachers. Therefore, school facilities and infrastructure must be safe for young children, meaning that they do not endanger them physically or in food. In RPPH, teachers can design teaching and learning process activities in class first. They can also ensure that children receive appropriate media for their learning themes. In addition, teachers must have the ability to create a pleasant learning atmosphere for their children. They must also be able to carry out active, creative and innovative learning to stimulate the development of every aspect of children's development, including their ability in English. Stimulation for learning English for young children must be given regularly and in appropriate portions for young children.

Teachers must realize that children's world is play because play provides learning and stimulation. This will make learning comfortable for children and help them learn English from an early age. In addition, teachers must understand the appropriate approach for young children when using various creative approaches to learning. From an early age, educational games can be provided which will be beneficial for the child's growth. Apart from that, it is very important to grow children's self-confidence from an early age, such as mentioning vocabulary in English when appearing in front of the class and has additional benefits for children until they grow up.

## CONCLUSION

RA Nurul Hikmah Lenteng teachers use the right approach to improve their children's English knowledge and skills. They apply an introductory learning approach by introducing vocabulary according to themes such as objects, animals, plants and food using English. This approach is very important for teachers to implement.

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