

INTRODUCTION OF CALISTUNG USING THE METHOD OF SINGING FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD

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Abstract. The large number of primary school institutions that implement a read, write and count test system to accept the registration of new students has resulted in parents being very observant in choosing non-formal educational institutions. This is certainly a fairly complicated problem for educators in kindergarten and early childhood education, because the rules and curriculum of calistung learning are not allowed. So teachers must be good at modifying interesting learning methods for children without having to violate rules and curricula but still give answers to parents' demands. The purpose of this study was to see the extent of children's progress in capturing calistung learning applied by non-formal educational institutions using the singing method. While the main goal is to prepare early childhood in elementary school education, one of which is by equipping children in the ability to read, write and count or what we know better as calistung. This research uses a qualitative descriptive method, the data collection technique is direct observation of objects and literature studies by looking for information through books, journals and the internet. The technical analysis of the data is by sorting out the data that is in accordance with this research then stated in an article. From this study, it was found that children who were taught calistung using the singing method absorbed faster than using other methods. Through singing, the teacher can convey moral messages and religious values, besides that the potential of the child's right brain can be optimized because these messages will be recorded and stored in the child's memory in his memory.

Keywords: calistung, singing method, early childhood.

INTRODUCTION

Early childhood is an invaluable state asset to the life to come. Therefore, it is very important to provide the best education and care so that later children can grow and develop optimally according to what is expected by adults. It is the parents who have the obligation and responsibility in providing the best education and care for the child, because the first madrasa of early childhood is us as parents, besides that the most time children are at home. However, sometimes the role of parents in educating and nurturing children is not optimal without additional education by teachers in schools. Because parents do not have the professional abilities of teachers in school, according to what is needed by children, especially in the field of intelligence or intelligence.

In this case, parents send their children to early childhood educational institutions in the hope that their children have a lot of knowledge gained according to their age. So in addition to parents who have the obligation to provide the best care and education for children, teachers also have the same obligations as professionals owned by an early childhood education institution. In the end, good cooperation between teachers and parents becomes a bridge to the success of parenting and education patterns of children.

Early childhood education institutions which have a role to facilitate children in helping to develop all aspects of children's abilities and development must have professional teachers or educators. However, professionals here are not enough where a teacher is required to make children feel happy safe and comfortable and have a strong sense of self-confidence. When the child is comfortable with the teacher at school, it will be easy for the children to receive all the

stimulus provided by the teacher which in the end all aspects of the child's development develop properly so that they have the readiness to learn in higher educational institutions.

The large number of primary school institutions that implement a read, write and count test system to accept the registration of new students has resulted in parents being very observant in choosing non-formal educational institutions. This is certainly a fairly complicated problem for educators in kindergarten and early childhood education, because the rules and curriculum of calistung learning are not allowed but are still required to provide. So teachers must be good at modifying interesting learning methods for children without having to violate rules and curricula but still give answers to parents' demands.

One of the readiness of early childhood learning to take elementary school education is the ability to read, write and count or what we know better as calistung. Because of the large number of favorite elementary schools that parents are interested in implementing this calistung entrance test system, it is quite a complicated task for ECCE equivalent teachers to equip children in terms of calistung abilities. Because it is not necessarily that the teacher can directly provide this calistung learning, especially without the appropriate props and methods. It must be strictly taken into account, designed and adjusted to the applicable rules so that there is no social inequality towards children, who may feel burdened by learning that is beyond their limits. Back again because actually according to their early childhood age is in the playing stage, so they cannot be taken seriously for a long time in receiving lessons.

When the child is able to take the test, it is likely that the child will be accepted, but when the child is unable to take the test, it will be recommended to another school. Moreover, the school has a high image in achievement, so it has become commonplace when rejecting prospective students who are not capable in the field of calistung. Therefore, teachers must really always innovate and be creative so that the learning provided to children can be easily accepted. Because if not, the ECCE institution will be less attractive to parents, because parents will choose an institution that specifically handles calistung problems such as tutoring bimba.

From the description above, it becomes natural for parents who demand that early childhood education institutions provide instruction about calistung, so that the expectation of parents entering their children into favorite schools is acceptable. However, in terms of the early childhood education curriculum, calistung learning is not justified because it is considered to exceed the limits of children's abilities. Where early childhood should not be required to think heavily and in fact learning in early childhood should be fun learning for children. So that teachers must be good at modifying interesting learning methods for children without having to violate curriculum rules but still give answers to parents' demands, namely the ability to calistung children

The methods used in early childhood learning used by educators in schools must be designed as attractive as possible so that children feel called by themselves to focus on participating in these teaching and learning activities. With focus and pleasure, children will automatically absorb what is conveyed by the teacher faster, besides that the main goal of learning can be achieved, namely that children have various aspects of ability.

Method is a tool used in the implementation of education in the delivery of material or activities. Through the right method the difficult thing will become easier. The methods used by teachers in introducing a material are very diverse such as storytelling, playing, simple projects, field trips, question and answer, assignments, demonstrations, singing and so on. Of these various methods, of course, they have their own disadvantages and advantages, but still provide a real and meaningful understanding in the child's mind. And from these various methods, all of them can be used to introduce learning about calistung.

One of the methods that is interesting and in demand by children and is believed to be able to immerse in children's thinking is the singing method. The singing method is an activity in chanting messages contained in the element of education, through singing children can be carried away to a sad and joyful mood, singing can also foster an aesthetic sense. Learning with the singing method can stimulate children's extrinsic motivation to want to study at school. Through singing, the teacher can convey moral messages and religious values, besides that the potential of the child's right brain can be optimized because these messages will be recorded and stored in the child's memory in his memory.

The singing method used in the introduction of calistung is expected to be able to develop children's ability to be able to learn to read, write and count even though in this case it is still in a simple level. Because early childhood calistung is only limited to the basics, it is not as complicated as calistung for elementary school.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses a qualitative method, namely a research method used to examine the condition of natural objects where the researcher is a key instrument. While the type of research is descriptive research, according to Whitney in Nazir (1998) the descriptive method is fact-finding with proper interpretation. Descriptive research studies problems in society, as well as the procedures that apply in society, certain situations, including about relationships, activities, attitudes, views and ongoing processes. In this case, it is an early childhood calistung recognition activity, before treatment is given and after treatment. The treatment or treatment of this research is the use of singing methods or techniques.

The research was carried out at RA Al Huda Selanegara, Sumpiuh District with a total of 46 students, which was divided into two classes, namely class B1 and class B2 with the number of students in each class being 23 children. The study was carried out for one week where researchers observed firsthand the differences and developments in understanding numbers, letters, counting, writing and reading. This study focuses on children who are introduced to calistung through the method of singing with children whose calistung recognition uses direct methods and questions and answers.

The data collection technique is a combination of direct observation of children and literature studies. The observation method is observation and concentration of attention using all sensory tools that are carried out systematically and deliberately on an object directly. Meanwhile, the search for supporting data information by looking for data on books, journals and the internet related to the research theme.

Meanwhile, the technical data analysis is to understand and sort out the data components that are in accordance with the research, by means of data reduction, data study and drawing conclusions or verification of data, which is then stated in an article writing.

From this study, it was found that children who were taught calistung using the singing method absorbed faster than using other methods. Through singing, the teacher can convey moral messages and religious values, besides that the potential of the child's right brain can be optimized because these messages will be recorded and stored in the child's memory in his memory.

RESULT AND ANALYSIS

Early childhood has different abilities and intelligence, this difference can be caused by various factors such as heredity, environment, stimulation and nutrition. But all of those factors develop interrelated inseparable from each other. As explained by Howard Gardner in the theory of multiple intelligence, in essence children have diverse abilities so children should not be said to be stupid, because each child must have their own uniqueness and talents. The abilities and intelligence possessed by early childhood are used as a benchmark in providing an assessment of children's learning outcomes, which include visual-spatial, logic-mathematical, linguistic-verbal, kinesthetic-physical, musical, interpersonal, intrapersonal, naturalist and existential intelligence. In early childhood education, intelligence is summarized in 6 aspects of child development which include aspects of development Religious and moral values, Cognitive, Language, Social Emotional, Physical motor and Art. All these aspects must be given in daily early childhood learning through habituation activities or core activities.

In the world of early childhood education, it is actually not allowed to introduce calistung, but it is legal to give it on the condition that the child is ready to accept it or that a period of sensitivity has appeared. This readiness arises when the child has begun to have an interest in

pre-reading and pre-writing activities such as the visual maturity of the child's motor can hold the stationery correctly or imitate some simple form, the ability to concentrate, desire or interest in seeing pictures or writing in the book or just open the book and enjoy playing with the letters. The introduction of calistung in early childhood is important as a process of readiness to learn in the next education, namely elementary school.

Dr. Maria Montessori became a pioneer in the development of reading, writing and numeracy learning methods for early childhood. Maria Motessori was the first female Doctor of Health from Italy, and had practiced multi-sensory learning in children with physical disabilities, by the time she founded her first kindergarten school called Casa De Bambini. Through simple activities that are carried out over and over again most children make rapid progress. They can even read and write at a relatively young age, namely 4 to 5 years old without having to be burdened.

Children are invited by teachers to learn to recognize letters and numbers regularly using various media such as number card letter cards, posters of number posters, puzzle and so on. The process of calistung recognition activities here is not as complicated as imagined but has the aim that children can get to know, be able to imitate making and and mentioning the numbers and letters. Along with the habituation of the introduction of letters and numbers in children, children are increasingly understanding, memorizing and able to mention them one by one. After the child understands being able to mention and make letters and numbers, the next step is to learn to read and count. The process of introducing calistung applied in early childhood educational institutions that is emphasized is the singing method because the child is more happy, comfortable and quickly memorized. Examples of songs or songs to introduce letters and numbers include songs with the title: 1) alphabet 2) aiueo 3) counting with three languages 4) Five right fingers and five left fingers 5) Five ducklings and so on.

The introduction of calistung using the dirasah singing method can increase students' understanding of the ability to about numbers, letters, reading writing and counting. It is proven to be faster and more fun for children because the singing method really makes the learning atmosphere more joyful and happy children will certainly be faster in capturing information. The information contained in the singing method is in the form of recognition of numbers and letters.

The singing method is effective for the introduction of calistung to early childhood because the child absorbs the various information conveyed more quickly. Through singing, children can express their feelings and moods, thus creating a closeness and comfort towards the teacher and his friends.

In the research conducted at RA Al Huda Selanegara on students who were introduced to the calistung with the singing method in the B1 class group was 70% more effective and easier to catch by children. Compared to the introduction of calistung with other methods in the B2 class group which is only able to 50% of the number of students. With this significant progress, teachers must be good at making songs related to the introduction of calistung so that children's calistung skills develop quickly so that when children graduate from RA and then enroll in their favorite elementary school they can be accepted because they are able to complete a literacy test from the elementary school that the child is interested in.

The results of another study by Diah Latifah and Dewi Suryati Budiyati (2013) with the title "Study on Singing Activities in Calistung Learning for Early Childhood in TK Sekolah Alam Bandung" which carries more than 20 references in it in the form of books, internet and journals. It showed that children in general as much as 73.3% were able to recognize and understand simple calistung quickly within 2 weeks, the rest were able to recognize and understand calistung in a moderate time of 3-4 weeks. Slightly different from the author's research this time which was able to introduce the initial calistung within 1 week as much as 70%. and 50% in one week children were given different treatments or methods. This shows that the singing method is appropriately implemented to introduce early childhood learning.

Another hope of the success of the children will be the understanding of this calistung ra Al Huda school becomes a favorite ECCE institution as well, because in addition to this school is a school with a religious base that is in great demand walimurid of course with the success of this calistung will increase the number of RA students in the following years by continuing to

implement the rules after the existing curriculum and rules but more innovating in modifying learning activities which in this case are the most urgent is the introduction of calistung.

Since the singing method is implemented, the child's calistung ability has increased, although there are different stages of absorption. There are children who are faster in reading but weak in counting, there are those who are fast in counting but weak in reading. But all of that does not affect the enthusiasm for learning children who basically prefer to learn while playing / singing. The characteristic of children is to play, therefore in the game various learnings are inserted so that indirectly the child learns in the game by holding the principle of playing while learning and learning while playing. Play in addition to bringing joy to children is also a learning process that causes the development of various aspects.

Calistung is short for reading (ca), writing (lis), and counting (tung) and is assembled into the word calistung which has the meaning of something learning to read, write and count first through play activities to absorb the thoughts, feelings and will of students through good writing and speech (Hidayat: 2003). In everyday life, children are faced with situations that make them interested in this calistung when they find the activities of Mom who is counting the trafficking, Dad who is reading the newspaper and Big Brother who is writing and children's play activities outside the home who do numbering games making children more interested in these three things.

Calistung is a fundamental thing that is very important to be introduced to children from an early age. The ability to read and write in children, children will absorb faster, receive information and convey information from the results of reading them, while children's numeracy skills develop aspects of thinking logic faster. Children's reading ability as a cognitive gateway that plays an important role in all human life, especially in terms of making contact and communication with others. Meanwhile, writing is a way for children to convey message messages using signs before children can form and recognize letters.

Reading is translating letters (symbols) into sounds combined with words (Djamarah: 2010). Then Hodgson (in tarigan: 2008) said that reading is a process that is carried out and used by readers to obtain the message to be conveyed by the author through the medium of words / written language. The stage of reading in early childhood is first, reading pictures: children are given a book in which there is one kind of picture there must be no other pictures. secondly, reading pictures and letters: introducing the initial letter of the picture, for example, Apple, the front letter A, third, reading pictures with words: there are pictures and words according to the picture, and fourth, reading sentences is the most mature stage, children already know a lot of vocabulary which is then assembled into sentences.

While the stages of reading according to the Ministry of National Education (2000) are first, the fantasy stage (magical stage), second, the self-concept stage (Self concept stage), third, the Bridging reading stages, the fourth, the reading recognition stage (Take-off Reader stages) and the fifth, the fluent reading stage (Independent reader stages).

Writing is an activity of making letters or numbers and so on made with pen, pencil, paint and others (susanto: 2014). Writing is categorized as there are 2, namely writing pre-alphabet and writing alphabet. Writing pre-alphabet means making writing that does not sound or cannot be read, children just make scribbles or pictures that have no meaning. Meanwhile, writing alphabets is the activity of writing the beginning of words, word series, and writing sentences. While the writing stages according to the Ministry of National Education are the stage of crossing out or making strokes (scribble stages), the stage of linear repetition (linear receptive stages), the random latter stage, the stage of writing name writing (letter-name or phonetic writing).

Numeracy is a basic stage for mathematical activities, counting is very necessary to develop numeracy skills that are so urgent for everyday life. Numeracy has the first few stages, experience; Numeracy is taught through the opportunities given to children in carrying out their own activities using concrete objects. Second, the symbol ; counting using symbols using concrete objects or props. Third, Writing ; is a very abstract number for children. Meanwhile, according to the Ministry of National Education, the stage of imitating the count and the stage of connecting objects with the symbol of numbers.

According to Montessori by the time children enter the age of 4, they will learn to read and write with great enthusiasm because they are still in the stage of a period of general sensitivity to language. They have just mastered the language unconsciously and want to learn all things on a more conscious level and reading and writing activities allow doing this.

Montessori's view in his book entitled " Montessori Phyloshopy (1998) says, children can be understood through their concepts. The child constructs his own soul development (Child's self construction), sensitive periods, absorbent minds, laws of development (the natural laws governing the child's pshysic growth). Montessori believes that the child innately has a pattern of psychic development. In addition, the child also has a strong motive towards the formation of his own soul (self constructions).

Steinberg (1982) also suggests that children who get early reading lessons are generally more advanced in school. Morrow in (Spodek and saracho, 1994 : 325) says that reading is related to writing. In writing meaning is formed by the text. While in reading the text is formed through interpreting meaning. Therefore, when the child is taught to read at the same time he is taught to write.

The recognition of letters and sounds to children is the initial stage in reading. Clearly introducing the sounds of each letter so that the child can pronounce one letter by one clearly needs to be done compared to the child being forced to read without being introduced first. Hainstok in (Pertiwi et al 2021) said that reading is the recognition of letters or letter sounds by the method of looking, stretching and observing each letter spoken one by one, after which it is mixed together to form a short word. Dewi and Hasanah (2021) also said that calistung learning that is too forced and seems rushed will affect mental intelligence such as thoughts, emotions, attitudes and feelings that are reflected in attitudes and deeds. Where mental intelligence is one of them the child becomes rebellious.

The aspects that develop in the singing method are first, the Language Aspect : Adds to the vocabulary treasury, Improves the ability to receive language and express language. Secondly, Cognitive Aspects : Children more easily understand abstract concepts of a material. The child remembers words more easily because they are recorded in his memory. Third, Aspects of Art: Singing itself is an aspect of art development, with singing children's creativity honed. Fourth, Physical Motor Aspects: Training the muscles of the body and coordinating body movements. Fifth, Social-Emotional Aspects: Children play together, obey the rules of the game, Create a happy and joyful heart. Sixth, Religious and Moral Aspects: religious and moral messages and values can be conveyed through singing.

The singing method can make it easier to deliver learning materials, especially regarding the recognition of letters and numbers. By singing, children are invited to express physically or mentally freely and fun, besides that the child's physical and motor will also develop, one of which is singing with movements according to the rhythm of this song is very helpful for children in expressing body movements. According to Amin (2016), the singing method is a learning method that uses singing as a vehicle for children's learning. Because according to the fitrah, children like the intonation of the tone and rhythm heard. According to Amin, there are several advantages and disadvantages of the singing method including: The advantage is that it is easy, simple, fun and cheap, the knowledge / moral messages conveyed can be inherent in the child's memory for a relatively long period of time. While the weakness is that the knowledge gained is theoretical and imaginative..

Table 1. Furthermore, Dr. Montessori (1964) put forward the theory of child development, where there are 6 sensitive periods according to Montessori which are described in the following table:

| No | Sensitive Period | Child Development |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Period sensitive to regularity (0-3 years) | The period of total absorption (Absorbent Mind) introduction and sensory experience in the five senses. The child begins to learn regularity |
| 2. | Sensitive period for details / focusing attention on small things (1-2 years) | The child can detect the presence of small insects that are not noticed by adults. For example: if the child is shown a picture, the child will see and pay more attention to small things outside the image of |

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|--|---|
| 3. Sensitive period in terms of using the hand , consistently grasping the objects he touches (18 months-3 years) | the main object. Children like the activity of opening and closing objects with all their palms, for example: children put objects into a container and then take them out and then reinsert them with all their palms. Over the next two years or so children improve their movements and sense of touch. |
| 4. Sensitive period for movement (1.5 – 4 years) | The period of easy-to-read sensitivity is walking. Coordination and development of muscles, interest in small objects, confirmation of movements of interest in truth and reality are aware of the sequence of time and space. |
| 5. Sensitive period for learning a language : a. unconsciously (3 months - 3 years) b. consciously (3-6 years) | Children absorb sounds, words and grammar from their environment. Children will start by babbling first before they start speaking in meaningful words. After that, the child will enter the stage of "two-word sentences", then master the creation of sentences with a more complex structure. By not losing their sensitivity children learn new forms of grammar mindfully. The child is sensitive to the influence of adults, the child begins to doodle, the sense of touch begins to develop and interest in reading begins to grow. |
| 6. Sensitive period for aspects of social life (3-6 years) | The period of sensitivity is characterized by the child beginning to "aware" with a group mate. When they realized that they started learning to be cooperative with another friend. |

CONCLUSION

Calistung stands for reading, writing and numeracy is one of the learning activities that has become a hot topic of discussion in the scope of educators equivalent to ECCE, which has attracted controversy about the dos and don'ts of ECCE. The introduction of calistung is an important thing that must be taught to early childhood, as a provision for children in elementary school. This is also a demand from parents who really want their children to be able to in this calistung field. Various interesting ideas or methods must be mastered by teachers so that reading, writing and numeracy (calistung) can be accepted and absorbed by early childhood, without having to violate curriculum rules but still according to early childhood standards. One of these methods is the singing method, of course, the singing method is very liked by children because children can express themselves with joy and joy. By singing, children are able to memorize numbers and letters more quickly as well as various aspects of children's abilities can develop through this method such as NAM abilities, Physical Motor, Cognitive, Language, Social Emotional and Art.

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