

ANALYSIS OF FINE MOTOR DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN AGED 4-5 YEARS IN KB CENDEKIA BAPANGAN THROUGH POTTERY FORMATION PLAY ACTIVITIES

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Abstract

Pottery is one of the traditional handicrafts made of clay that is shaped in such a way and then heated until it becomes hard. This clay pottery forming game can help children's imagination to make a desired object from clay play. This study aims to determine the fine motor development of children through pottery playing activities. The research method applied in writing this article is qualitative method. The results of this study confirm the importance of paying attention to children's fine motor development, especially by parents and teachers. Fine motor development, which involves coordinating small muscles in movements such as writing and buttoning a shirt, is essential for everyday tasks. One effective method to support fine motor development is through the medium of play, especially the manufacture of pottery from clay. This activity not only improves fine motor skills, but also develops the child's creativity and sensory experience. Clay manipulation requires precise hand movements, which strengthen eye-hand coordination and dexterity. In addition, working with clay encourages children to use their imagination, provides rich sensory stimulation, and allows emotional expression through art. To integrate pottery activities into early childhood education, teachers and parents can introduce structured pottery sessions, provide free playtime, incorporate thematic projects, encourage collaborative projects, and showcase children's work to celebrate their achievements. Thus, the use of clay in early childhood learning becomes a fun and effective way to support fine motor development and other aspects of development.

Keywords: Fine Motor, Early Childhood, Pottery Shaping Play

INTRODUCTION

Early childhood education has an important role in developing children's potential, including motor development. Motor development is the development of physical movement control through coordinated activities of nerve centers, nerve veins, and muscles. Motor development includes gross motor and fine motor skills (Memisevic & Hadzic, 2013). Gross motor is a body movement using large muscles or most of the muscles in the body and all limbs that are influenced by self-maturity. Fine motor development is a movement that involves small muscles. Fine motor development in children needs to be considered carefully by people around, especially parents and teachers. In addition, teachers are required to have pedagogic skills so that the learning process can be more optimal, especially in developing children's fine motor. Fine motor development in children aged 4-5 years is an important stage for growth that can affect their ability in daily activities (Isnaini & Katoningsih, 2022). Fine motor skills of children aged 4-5 years can be stimulated with a variety of fun learning activities, one of which is playing pottery, in educational institutions such as KB Cendekia Bapangan is one of the potential means to stimulate children's fine motor development. According to Soetedja, fine art activities are fields that focus on imaging objects that are made, shown, and appreciated (Rukmini, 2022).

Pottery is one of the traditional handicrafts made of clay that is shaped in such a way and then heated until it becomes hard. This clay pottery forming game can help children's imagination to make a desired object from clay play. This game is also flexible and soft, the material is also safe for children if they want to be creative in any form, namely, making ashtrays, bowls, plates, fruit shapes, balls and others (Faber et al., 2024). Giving water to clay becomes a child's ability to determine so that clay is not too wet and not too dry, then children will be happy with this game. Children's skills will develop along with the balance of brain and cognitive nerves in children, smooth muscles in children that are in one of the limbs that are most often used in everyday life such as hands and strengthening these muscles to multiply other smooth muscle nerves is a fine motor development process that must be built early in children (Maelany & Widyaningsih, 2022). This is recognized by experts to provide the ability of smooth muscles to do various things in childhood to old age. The importance of fine motor development becomes an important program in the development of early childhood aspects. Brain organs greatly affect the child's fine motor (Adiyanti et al., 2022).

Play activities that can develop children's creativity, one of which is playing with clay. According to the study group cited by Rochayah (2012), the term "clay" refers to a natural material that can be processed and shaped into different types of pottery or ceramics. Playing with plastic clay, or plasticine, provides an opportunity for children to develop their creative potential by creating something according to their imagination (Fitrianingsih & Sari, 2019). The activity of making shapes from plasticine clay is a skill game that has a major contribution to the overall development of the child, as an implication of his creative development. Through these activities, children can learn to explore textures and shapes, hone fine motor skills, and develop cognitive and emotional abilities. By giving children, a medium to express their fantasies in physical form, clay games not only stimulate creativity but also encourage the development of various important aspects in children (Islammeiliani & Khamidun, 2017).

The importance of understanding and analyzing children's fine motor development through playing pottery formation activities at KB Cendekia Bapangan encourages this research. This study aims to analyze the fine motor development of children aged 4-5 years through pottery playing activities, as well as evaluate the positive impact of these activities on their fine motor development. This study will combine various methods of observation and measurement of fine motor development of children aged 4-5 years who are involved in playing pottery activities at KB Cendekia Bapangan.

METHODS

This study aims to determine the fine motor development of children through pottery playing activities. The research method applied in writing this article is qualitative method. The qualitative approach in research prioritizes a deep and descriptive understanding of the contexts, processes, and experiences of individuals or groups. This research is a research that uses qualitative research methods with a descriptive approach. (Sugiyono, 2018) revealed that qualitative research is research conducted to determine the phenomena experienced by the subject, such as, behavior, perception, action holistically by way of description in the form of words. The purpose of this study is to better understand each phenomenon that occurs through data collection, explain a phenomenon as deeply as possible by collecting data as deeply as possible, which shows the importance of depth and detail of a data studied.

This research took place in Jepara Regency, precisely at KB Cendekia which is addressed at Bapangan RT 01 RW 01 Jepara District, Jepara Regency . The subjects of his research include class teachers, and all KB Scholar students. The data sources of this study are from primary and secondary data sources, for primary data sources are principals, class teachers, and all KB Scholar students, while the secondary data is history or profiles, photos, other supporting documents at KB Scholar Bapangan and other things needed are equipment from the use of interview and observation methods. The data collection techniques used in this study were observation, interviews, and documentation. While the data analysis used is by triangulation technique, which is to test the credibility of the data is done by checking data to the same source with different techniques. This peeltia will be carried out from April 27 to May 18, 2024.

RESULTS

The results of research on the analysis of fine motor development of children aged 4-5 years at KB Cendekia Bapangan through pottery formation play activities show that these activities can train children's fine motor skills. Based on the results of interviews with class teachers at KB Cendekia Bapangan, that through playing activities forming pottery can improve children's motor development, which is characterized by children being able to coordinate eye and hand movements, children can do twisting, squeezing, twisting, pinching movements well, children can form by following molds or forming according to children's imagination (Nopiyanti et al., 2023). There are several obstacles experienced by teachers in stimulating children's fine motor development through pottery activities including, children do not want to participate in games because the clay media used has a soft texture and brown so that children feel disgusted and afraid of getting dirty, the media used is considered less attractive because it has only one color. The solution that teachers can do to deal with these obstacles is to take a gentle and patient approach then encourage children slowly and give time for children to feel comfortable, give children the option to use gloves to help them feel protected from dirty, set an example with teachers participating in fun play activities and do not need to be afraid of getting dirty, Give praise when the child tries to participate in the activity despite initially feeling hesitant (Cinantya & Ilhami, 2022).

Based on the results of observations and interviews with class teachers, it was seen that children were able to use various tools for exploration in making shapes from clay, such as character prints, and plastic clogs.

Tabel 1. Results of Observations and Interviews Teachers

Observation aspect	Observations
1. Ability and flexibility to use fingers	Based on the results of observations and interviews with class teachers, there are some children who are able to use their fingers well, there are also children who still need help. However, in this play activity children really enjoy their activities so that children who need help feel comfortable so that over time children can use their fingers well.
2. Print shapes	Based on the results of observations and interviews with class teachers children are able to print shapes well according to the shape of the mold, children make shapes by pressing clay into the desired mold.
3. Coordinate eyes and hands	Based on the results of observations and interviews with class teachers, the children's ability to coordinate eyes and hands in making clay pottery looks quite good.
4. Ability to use tools for exploration	Based on the results of observations and interviews with class teachers, it was seen that children were able to use various tools for exploration in making shapes from clay, such as character prints, and plastic clove.

Source: Field Observation Results

DISCUSSION

Fine motor implemented in early childhood is important for aspects of child development to develop according to their age level. Referring to some literature, it can be stated the meaning of fine motor development, namely the ability to control the movement of fine muscles which include hand movements, eye coordination, and finger flexibility, which is done simultaneously when doing several activities such as making works of art such as painting, coloring, making various shapes and so on (Ozcan & Gullu, 2021). Based on this understanding, improving fine motor skills through shaping activities is the right method because it involves many fine motor limbs in each process, both in the process of using tools and materials that will be used to produce clay works that involve children in every activity that can be done and liked by children such as painting, draw or shape (Putri et al., 2018).

The application of pottery forming play activities using clay in early childhood education at KB Cendekia Bapangan is a fun and effective way to support children's fine motor development, enhance their creativity and sensory experience. The use of clay can be applied in early childhood learning, so that children can express their ideas freely through forming pottery with clay. Playing making various forms of pottery from clay can be done as an effort to develop children's creative potential by creating a work according to their imagination. Pottery is a game that requires skills that greatly influence the overall development of children. Clay pottery was chosen because it is made from natural sources that are environmentally friendly and safe for children (Jones et al., 2021).

Pottery forming play activities are chosen to stimulate children's fine motor because basically children like to do play-themed activities, children will create something new when children do play activities, they do not feel fear of failure because, for them there is no term failure, children have many opportunities to do many things optimally. The development of creativity is very important to be developed early because it has a great influence on the development of all aspects in early childhood, if children's creativity is not developed early, it is feared that the ability of intelligence and fluency in thinking will not develop optimally. For example, when children are asked to make a circle shape and from these shapes children manage into various shapes that vary such as: flowers, plates, and fruits. So with this, children are able to show fluency in expressing their varied imaginations (Strooband et al., 2023).

Pottery play activities can improve children's fine motor development, this can be seen from the child's ability to coordinate hand movements with eyes, print shapes with printing tools, squeeze, twist, twist, and jump, and make shapes using fingers. So that children are able to show good strength and flexibility of finger muscles. Pottery playing activities can train children's ability to coordinate hand movements with their eyes, as well as improve skills in writing, drawing, and making shapes using prints easily, such as pressing according to the shape of the print. Children are also able to make shapes according to their creativity and imagination, however, there are some children who still need to be trained, because fine motor development in each child is different, some have developed well, some still need to be trained in playing pottery (Slamet Riyadi et al., 2023).

The provision of fine motor stimulation carried out by teachers with the media to play to form pottery has a challenge, namely the media used is considered less attractive to

children, this can be seen from children who feel disgusted to see soft clay. Solutions that teachers can do in dealing with children who do not want to participate in play activities are as follows:

- a. Take a gentle and patient approach.
- b. Encourage the child slowly and give time for the child to feel comfortable.
- c. Give the child the option to use gloves. Set an example with teachers participating in fun play activities and not having to fear getting dirty.
- d. Give praise when the child tries to participate in the activity even though he initially feels doubtful.

In addition, teachers also need to pay attention to the following points in playing pottery:

- a. Use clay that has a soft texture and is not sticky.
- b. Give gloves to the child so as not to feel afraid of getting dirty.
- c. Make play fun and creative.

CONCLUSION

Early childhood education has an important role in developing children's potential, including fine motor development. Fine motor development in children needs to be considered carefully by people around, especially parents and teachers. The application of play media forms pottery that uses clay in early childhood education to be a fun and effective way to support children's fine motor development, enhancing their creativity and sensory experience. The use of clay can be applied in early childhood learning, so that children can express their ideas freely through shaping with clay.

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