

APPRENTICESHIP REPORT AT ASELIA KINDERGARTEN

To be a teacher is a never imagined thing for the present writer before. However, she realizes that English becomes more and more important as an international language which has been admitted by the world and therefore needs to be introduced to the children since they start studying at school. That is why she is interested to be an English teacher at Aselia Kindergarten. Moreover, since becoming a student at Faculty of Letters, she has the desire to look for a job experience especially in education field and to share the knowledge she gets from her study. She would like to learn how to be a good teacher as well. Another reason is because Aselia Kindergarten has never had an English lesson before.

Aselia Kindergarten is a registered kindergarten which is located at Jl. Supratman no. 7, Bandung. When first founded in 1977, Aselia Kindergarten was situated in the same building with SD Ciujung but now it has its own building. At the beginning Aselia Kindergarten had 80 pupils which were divided into three classes. However, in 2003-2004, the total member of the pupils dramatically decreases to 33 children in one class. It is because now there are so many other kindergartens around the area.

To be a teacher in Aselia Kindergarten, there are several conditions that must be fulfilled. According to the principal, they are as follow:

1. Has a degree of *Sekolah Guru Taman Kanak-Kanak* or *Sekolah Pendidikan Guru jurusan Taman Kanak-Kanak*.
2. At least 18 years old.
3. Religious.
4. Able to communicate well with other colleagues.
5. Able to teach with creative methods, along with the supporting teaching aids.
6. Loves children and is patient with them.

As an English teacher in Aselia Kindergarten, the present writer has several routines. She teaches English every Monday and Saturday, from 10.00 until 10.30 am. Beside teaching, which is her most dominant work, she also helps another teacher to take the children to a dentist every Saturday and to take care of them when they are playing and studying.

There are some difficulties which the present writer has experienced when teaching. Since there has never been an English lesson and curriculum before, the present writer is delegated to choose and arrange all the materials by herself. She has to provide all the teaching aids as well. She must be able to take the trouble alone, however, it makes the present writer more creative in teaching.

The present writer combines the four English skills in her teaching method. She uses 50% speaking aspect and 30% listening aspect. The speaking aspect is used when the present writer introduces and pronounces English words and gives instructions to the children in English, while the listening aspect is for the children to listen to the words and instructions. After that, they should try to practice repeating and pronouncing the English words mentioned by the present writer earlier.

The other two aspects are 10% reading aspect and 10% writing aspect. For example, before starting the lesson, the present writer usually writes the English

words on the blackboard and then practices with the children to spell them letter by letter. After that, she sometimes would give drawing books for the children to colour and to write the English words on the books.

Beside combining the English skills, the knowledge that the present writer has got from the university supports her teaching method. For example, Techniques for TEFL (Teaching English as Foreign Language) supports her in making a lesson plan and Preparation for Oral Presentation helps her know how to teach and speak English in front of the class. Teaching English to Young Learners also teaches her about the method of teaching English to children.

When it comes to evaluation, it is rather hard for the present writer to do. It is because her supervisor at Aselia Kindergarten does not understand English and she can only give evaluation about teaching method in general, whereas it is the present writer herself who will give the objective evaluation about her teaching English. The present writer is evaluated generally, for example, that she is patient enough and can handle the children well. However, sometimes she is said to lack in expressions, for example, when reading English stories to the children. As for the present writer's objective self-evaluation in teaching English, she has a strength for being creative in teaching because she is delegated to choose and arrange all the materials by herself. For example, she is successful in teaching ABC and numbers in English through songs. On the other hand, her weakness is in speaking. She sometimes does some mistake in pronunciation, as an example, when pronouncing "mouth".

After the present writer has done the apprenticeship in Aselia Kindergarten for two months, she can conclude that this apprenticeship program is very useful. It is important for the students to have a working experience and it helps to prepare them when they enter the real working world in the future. Besides, from the

apprenticeship, the present writer also learns that to be a teacher is not easy, especially a kindergarten teacher. It is because a kindergarten teacher is the one who gives strong and well base in teaching. A kindergarten teacher also needs to be more patient and open to the children, be friendly and to always smile so that the children will feel safer and more comfortable in school. She also would like to suggest that D3 would keep continuing the apprenticeship programme because she has felt the advantages and benefits in getting work experience and applying the theory which she has got from her study to real work practice.

The present writer would like to suggest for Aselia Kindergarten to insert an English curriculum in the near future realizing the importance of English nowadays. Furthermore, if later Aselia Kindergarten has had an English curriculum, the present writer would like to further suggest for the kindergarten to give a longer time for English lesson and to add more English teachers as well as teaching aids.