

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

It can be seen in recent years that many play groups have been opened in Bandung. It is a challenge for play group teachers to provide the right solution for children at the play group level to remain focused during the teaching-learning process. Lisa Bells (1) states that when teaching play group children, teachers find it difficult to maintain their interest in the classroom. It seems that the children do not like to give their attention to the teachers for a long time. The children at the play group level like to play rather than just sitting in class while looking at and listening to their teacher. Besides that, many play groups in Bandung have implemented the use of English as the medium of communication. This makes it more difficult for the children to focus in class, because they feel it is strange listening to the English language, as it is a foreign language. For both of these reasons, looking for ways to maintain the children's attention in the classroom requires the teacher's creativity. I choose the topic "Overcoming the Problem of Lack of Attention of the Play Group

Children in the Classroom at Kids Talent ” because it is an interesting problem that I found when I did my internship at Kids Talent, and I desire to find solutions to this problem. When I became an assistant teacher in play Group at Kids Talent, I had to conduct observations of the children. There were sixteen children 3-4 years old in the class. They were busy doing their work when I observed some of the classroom lessons, while the others were just sitting. They ignored the teacher and did not do any work. If this problem was not handled well, they could not learn effectively. To be able to solve this problem, I tried to explore some solutions to help the children have better attention in the classroom.

In this term paper, I discuss the causes and the effects of this problem and I also suggest potential solutions to solve the problem that I had observed during my internship in order that the play group children can maintain better attention in the classroom.

## B. Identification of the Problem

The problems that I want to discuss in this term paper are as follows :

- Why is it difficult for the play group children at Kids Talent to keep their attention during class?
- How does lack of attention of the play group children at Kids Talent affect them in class?

- How can the teacher help the play group children to keep their attention during the class?

### C. Objectives and Benefits of the Study

The objective of writing this term paper is to clarify the causes of play group children losing their attention in the classroom at Kids Talent, to identify the effects of the problem that children cannot keep their attention during the lesson in class, and also to find solutions that can improve children's attention in the classroom. The teachers at Kids Talent could use the suggested solutions during the teaching-learning process.

There are several benefits of writing this term paper for the Kids Talent Institution, especially for the teachers there. The teachers at Kids Talent will find some useful information on how to help the children keep their attention in the classroom. Teachers can also apply the best solutions to overcome the children's lack of attention during the teaching-learning process.

This term paper can also help me, if I am teaching in a play group in the future to gain ideas about how to handle the children thus, they have better attention in the classroom.

This paper is also useful for the students who are studying to be teachers of English for small children; thus, they will have more understanding about this problem of the lack of children's attention in a play group class. They will also gain ideas on how to overcome this problem.

#### D. Description of the Institution

Kids Talent International Preschool and Kindergarten is one of the English educational institutions established in Bandung. Mr. Yudi, Mr. Sandy and Mrs. Johan established Kids Talent on July 11, 2004, located at Taman Kopo Indah II. At the beginning there was only one Nursery class, with two children. Later in the same year, the play group class was opened, with eight children. In the process of time, the number of children increased. In 2005 the Toddler class was opened with four children, then in 2007 the K1 class was opened, with four children. Lastly, K2 was opened in 2008, with five children. Kids Talent currently has 73 children.

The lowest level at Kids Talent is Toddler, for children 1-2 years old. The second is Nursery, for 2-3 year old children. The third is play group, for children 3-4 years old. Next is K1, for children 4-5 years old, and the last is K2, for 5-6 year old children.

As written on the entrance gate, their vision and mission is for the children to build their character, explore their potential and to develop their performance.

Teachers not only teach the children but they also give a report of children's learning ability to their parents. Teachers also communicate with parents about the children's development skills and their behavior in the classroom.

## E. Method of the Study

The method of the study that I use to get the data for this term paper is my internship journal, based on my observation and teaching experience during two months internship at Kids Talent. In my observation, including my own teaching experience during the internship, I observed the children's ability and their behavior during the lessons. I wrote down in my internship journal all the activities given by the teachers, including myself, and the problems that I found.

I did library research by reading some books and articles to get some suitable theories about how to help preschool children keep their attention during the learning-process. Besides this, I also browsed some theories from the Internet to support my statements.

## F. Limitation of the Study

In my term paper, I limit my research to the Play Group children at KT who cannot keep their attention during class, which is half of the class. My analysis in this term paper is related to the ability of the children to keep their attention during the class lessons at Kids Talent. This analysis is based on my internship experience in the play group at Kids Talent from July until August 2008.

## G. Organization of the Term Paper

This term paper starts with the Abstract, which is a short summary of the entire term paper in Bahasa Indonesia. The Abstract is followed by the Declaration of Originality, after which is the Acknowledgements, containing my thanks to those who have helped and supported me during the process of doing the term paper. Then the Table of Contents provides the list of the contents of my term paper. Chapter 1 is the Introduction, which gives the Background of the Study, Identification of The Problem, Objectives and Benefits of the Study, Description of the Institution, Method of the Study, Limitation of the Study, and Organization of the Term Paper. Chapter 2 is the Problem Analysis, which analyzes the causes and effects of the problem. Chapter 3 is Potential Solutions, which contains three potential solutions, with the positive and negative effects of each solution. Chapter 4 is Conclusion, which contains the best solutions for the problem. Next is the Bibliography, containing the sources of the information that are used in the term paper. The last part is the Appendices, which contains the flowchart.