

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

In a learning process, it is possible that children have a difficulty in concentrating on lessons when they are in a classroom. Referring to 3-4 years old, Susan A. Miller mentions that “some children have a great deal of difficulty concentrating on or attending to tasks” (par. 18). Difficulty in concentrating on lessons will give bad effects in the learning process if it is not taken care of immediately. Therefore, it is important to pay attention to the children who find it hard to concentrate on lessons.

Considering the observation during the internship at Pelita Fajar Kindergarten (henceforth PFK), I am interested in analyzing the difficulty of five children aged 4 years at PFK in concentrating on language lessons. There are three kinds of language lessons at PFK, which are Indonesia, English, and Mandarin language. During the internship, it could be seen that there were five children among twenty three children in the class who had difficulty in concentrating on language lessons. They could not finish the tasks that have been given by the teachers because it is hard for them

to focus their attention. Moreover, if they do not pay attention to the lessons, they usually bother other children. Thus, this problem will be an obstacle for the children to study and do their activities. According to the article entitled “Increasing Concentration – What are The Benefits for Our Children?”, it is explained that “concentration assists us in study and understanding - improves our memory, and helps us focus on the task, activity or goal, so that we become more efficient” (Williams 3). Accordingly, the performance of the children in learning will be affected if they have difficulty in concentrating.

Another reason to discuss the topic is I find it deeply challenging to understand about this problem and get useful information; therefore, the teachers will be able to help children who cannot concentrate well. Also, the parents and teachers will realize that this problem is important to be solved. Thus, the negative effects that may happen to the children with lack of concentration can be prevented. It is expected that my term-paper can give more information to the institution and the parents about the children with lack of concentration.

B. Identification of the Problem

The discussion is aimed at analyzing these questions:

1. Why do the five children at PFK have difficulty in concentrating?
2. What would happen if the problem of these five children is not taken care of seriously?
3. How could the teachers and parents overcome this problem?

C. Objectives and Benefits of the Study

The objectives of this term-paper are:

1. To find the causes of the problem.
2. To find the effects of the problem.
3. To find the potential solutions to solve the problem.

The benefits of this term-paper for the institution are the teachers can improve their knowledge of teaching children and they will be able to handle the problem of children having difficulty in concentrating. The readers will get benefits from this term-paper; they will be able to understand this problem more deeply and they can see the problem from several perspectives. For me, as the writer of this term-paper, I get more knowledge about the problem and will be able to think about it wisely.

D. Description of the Institution

PFK is an institution which has awareness about the importance of children's education. Education of the children in their early years is truly important because they are the next generation of the nation.

PFK is located on Jendral Sudirman 475 and was built in 2007. The name 'Pelita Fajar' means the young generation who brings the light and always shines like the dawn breaks. Moreover, PFK has a hope that the young generation in this era will have a good education. At PFK, the mediums of instruction vary, namely, Indonesian, English and Mandarin. In the first year, PFK only had 53 children, but in the second year the number of the children had increased to 102 children. As a result, in 2009 Pelita

Fajar is building an elementary school for the first grade, which is next to the PFK building.

The vision of PFK is to develop the children's personalities to be healthy, capable, smart, and clever, also to educate children to be able to solve problems, have good knowledge and be able to act optimally based on religious values, national culture and tradition. Thus, they will become capable people in handling the problems that come from various environments.

PFK also has a mission, which is to be an institution with the ability to:

1. Provide an integrated and effective education, which can stimulate the motivation and enthusiasm of children in doing the educational process in school.
2. Give an optimum educational service based on passion.
3. Construct an academic achievement that can always attain a superior position on an International scale.
4. Continually grow in the midst of rapid exchange and a competitive era.

PFK is divided into three levels, namely, Preschool, Playgroup and Kindergarten. All classes are taught by professional teachers who are competent in teaching children.

E. Method of the Study

The topic is based on the problem that I have found during the internship at PFK. I would like to analyze the causes, the effects, and the best solutions to cope with the problem of children who have difficulty in

concentrating on language lessons. The data for my analysis is taken from electronic sources and library researches for relevant theories. The data is also taken from my observation, teaching experience and the journal that I have written during the internship at PFK. It describes the daily activities of the children, the learning situation and some problems that happen in the classroom.

F. Limitation of the Study

This study focuses on five children aged 4 years at PFK who have difficulty in concentrating. They find it hard to concentrate on language lessons which have been taught by the teachers in the class. The period of the internship is from July 14th to August 8th 2008.

G. Organization of the Term Paper

This term-paper is divided into four parts. Chapter One contains 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 Two contains problem analysis, which analyzes the causes and effects of the problem. Chapter Three contains potential solutions that can be used to solve the problem. Chapter Four is the conclusion. Bibliography contains the list of references for writing this term-paper. Lastly, Appendix contains the flowchart.