

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

In this globalization era, the need of learning English is increasing. Most people are aware of the importance of mastering English language. Nowadays there are a lot of language teaching institutions which offer various programs to fulfill this need, even for children. Parents are encouraged to introduce English as early as possible and to develop the language competence of their children. Dra. Hibana S. Rahman, M.Pd. (31) states that the early childhood age is the most important age in human life. The foundation of the characteristics of the children is developed in these early years for their whole life. That's why education in the early childhood years is needed.

Considering the importance of early childhood education, I decided to do my internship at AICO Child Development Center in July 2008. I worked as an English Phonics teacher to children aged three to eight years old and I taught them once a week. There was a teacher and a child in each session since the learning ability of each child was different.

Before a teacher taught a child, he/she had to prepare teaching aids, such as folded color paper, drawing book, crayons, glue, and color pencils. Also, the teacher prepared fun activities such as matching pictures, coloring, playing word games, or playing computer games about the alphabet. Every session is held for sixty minutes. The first fifteen minutes is for reviewing the letters of the alphabet already learned and checking homework. In the next fifteen minutes, the child has to practice their handwriting of the new letters in their book by connecting the dots in their workbook. Fifteen minutes later, they focus on doing a fun activity related to the new letter. Meanwhile, the teacher guides the children to repeat the word and the letter as he/she is doing the activity. In the last fifteen minutes, the teacher reads a story and gives homework.

During my internship I found out that children aged three cannot sit calmly when learning the alphabet. I taught one of child aged three who loves to run around the class and plays with objects that seem to be interesting to him. When I tried to teach him, he did not seem to listen. He did not respond to the instructions and the questions from the teacher. Meanwhile, the child aged four whom I taught, was able to answer the question, remember the previous lesson, and finish the task and the homework well. However, he loved to talk about anything. As the teacher, my role was to guide him to learn the alphabet. There were times when I had to stop him talking, but there were also times when I asked him questions to find out his interest.

The classroom situation is created to be supportive and pleasant for the children to learn the alphabet. The class's wall and the furniture are painted colorfully. Also, letters of the alphabets made from styrofoam are attached to the wall. Besides this, the teachers at AICO usually greet the child with a cheerful tone of voice. They are friendly, caring, and patient. Also, they encourage the children to learn by creating a fun learning atmosphere.

Since the two teachers, the supervisor, and also the owner were teaching in another school and branch office of AICO Child Development Center at Jl. Dago No.336 Kompleks DDK 1A, they were not always available in the office which was formerly located in Jl. Setraduta Raya RUKO C. This situation has caused a problem in AICO Child and Development Center. Because the supervisor was busy teaching, I had lack of supervision from her, but supervision was very important to me.

The problem that I found when I did my internship at AICO is I had difficulties in teaching children aged three and four. Therefore, in this term paper, I would like to analyze how to deal with the difficulties in my first experience of teaching children aged three and four years old at AICO Child Development Center.

## **B. Identification of the Problem**

I would like to focus on the problem of teaching English phonics to children aged three and four years old at AICO Child Development Center.

The analysis of the problem is formulated in the following questions:

1. Why did the teacher have difficulties in her first experience of teaching children aged three and four years at AICO Child Development Center?
2. How should the teacher deal with the difficulties in teaching children aged three and four years at AICO Child Development Center?

### C. Objectives and Benefits of the Study

In writing this term paper there are several purposes and benefits that I want to reach.

- Objectives

There are two objectives of writing this term paper. Firstly, it is to know why the teacher had difficulties in her first experience of teaching children aged three and four years at AICO Child Development Center. Secondly, the objective is to find out how to deal with the difficulties I had in my first experience of teaching English phonics to children aged three and four years at AICO Child Development Center.

- Benefits

The benefits of writing this term paper are: first, I will get the best solution to deal with the difficulties I had in my first experience of teaching English phonics to children aged three and four years at AICO Child Development Center. Also, it will improve my skill of teaching English phonics to children. Second, hopefully it will become useful for the teachers to deal

with the children in teaching English phonics at AICO Child Development Center so that they can teach better. Third, it would be good if the readers who have similar problems can apply the best potential solutions.

#### D. Description of the Institution

AICO Child Development Center is an institution that is concerned about education and development of children aged one to twelve years old, especially in teaching English as a foreign language. AICO Child Development Center has six programs: Global Art for children aged four to eighteen, FASTRACKIDS for children aged two to eight, Pre-K Class Activities for children aged one to four, English Phonic Practice for children aged three to eight, Child Concentration Treatment for children aged two and a half to six, and lastly, Tutorial for children aged four to twelve. AICO Child and Development Center now has six teachers who teach in each of the programs.

In 2006, AICO Child Development Center was located in Setra Duta Raya Ruko C. In August 2009, it moved to Ruko Setra Sari B8 Bandung. The branch office, which was located in Jl. Dago 336 Kompleks DDK 1A, moved to Jl. Ciumbeuleuit 32B. Eine Winanda and Susan Lim. established AICO Child and Development Center in 2006.

AICO Child Development Center has a vision to be the best child development center, while the mission is to provide innovative programs in a fun learning environment to achieve the child's highest potential. AICO

believes that each child has a unique talent and potential, including in their learning experience. The core identities of AICO are fun learning, professional and caring teachers, child-friendly facilities, innovative and state of the art programs.

## E. Method of the Study

In this term paper I analyze the problem that I found during my internship at AICO. I also analyze the causes and the effects of the problem. After that, I discuss the potential solutions and also its potential negative and positive effects to figure out the best potential solutions. The data for my analysis is taken from the observation of the children's behavior during the tutorial session, my teaching experience, the internship journal, in which I wrote about my activities and the problems I faced, and library research to find relevant theories supporting my analysis.

## F. Limitation of the Study

My research focuses on handling and teaching two children aged three and four years at AICO Child Development Center as my first experience in teaching children. The interview was conducted with three teachers and my supervisor at AICO Child Development Center. The period of the observation was the same as my internship period from July to August 2008.

## G. Organization of the Term Paper

This term paper starts with the Abstract, a brief summary of the whole paper in Bahasa Indonesia. The Abstract is followed by the Declaration of Originality, the Acknowledgements, the Table of Contents and the four chapters. The first chapter is the Introduction, which consists of 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. The second chapter is the Problem Analysis, which analyzes the causes and effects of the problems. The third chapter presents the Potential Solutions for the problem, and the fourth chapter is the Conclusion, which explains the chosen solution for the problem. The next part is the Appendix, which contains the Flowchart.