

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

“Preschool is an early childhood program in which children combine learning with play in a program run by professionally trained adults. Preschools are different from traditional day care in that their emphasis is learning and development rather than enabling parents to work or pursue other activities ” (“Children’s Health Encyclopedia”). One of the preschools in Bandung is *Pelita Fajar*, in which I did my apprenticeship.

Preschool children are about two years old. They are very young, and some of them are not ready for school yet. According to the article “Preschool Adjustment Problems”, “Some children are simply not ready for preschool. Many children start school at age three. Some children are not ready for structured school environment at this age”. The two-year olds are still in the period in which “attachment behaviours was at its peak. Stranger Anxiety was high, and will probably continue to be so for a few more months. Separation Anxiety will usually continue into the middle of this year or beyond, until the child's understanding of time, routines, and

different handling techniques has grown”. (Nixon & Gould 87) Therefore, some preschoolers at *Pelita Fajar* cry when they go to school. They suddenly cry when entering the classroom, and do not want to enter the class without their nannies or parents. The children seem to be afraid and confused of their new environment at school.

Nixon and Gould say that “Toddlers have limited language skills” (113); thus, they usually express what they feel by crying, such as when they feel afraid, surprised, or confused. During my apprenticeship, this creates a problem as the preschool children in *Pelita Fajar* cry loudly on their first few weeks at school. The situation brings a hard time for the teacher as the children cannot concentrate on the lesson that the teacher has to teach to them, and they seem to be uncomfortable with the situation in the classroom.

The topic that will be analyzed is about the fear of a new environment among preschool children at *Pelita Fajar*. The reason why I choose this topic is because crying children in *Pelita Fajar* Preschool has become the main problem among teachers and parents during the first few weeks in the new semester.

B. Identification of the Problem

The problems that I am going to analyze are formulated in these questions:

1. Why do children have fear of a new environment?

2. What should the teacher do to make the children stop crying when staying in the classroom without their parents or nannies?
3. What is the best way to control the class situation and get children's attention on the lesson?

C. Objectives and Benefits of the Study

The objectives of the study are to find the reasons why preschool children at *Pelita Fajar* have fear of a new environment that make them cry in the school, also to find out the best solution to make them stop crying and pay attention to the lesson.

Pelita Fajar Preschool, Playgroup, and Kindergarten teacher will have many benefits from this term paper. Not only will they find the right strategies to handle children with fear of a new environment, but they will also be able to teach better, which, in the end, can make *Pelita Fajar* Preschool become more popular.

The benefit of the research for me as the writer and readers in general, is that this term paper can give information about the causes and effects of preschool children having fear of a new environment, together with the best solution to solve the problem.

D. Description of the Institution

Pelita Fajar Preschool-Playgroup-Kindergarten was established in 2006 by *Yayasan Tunas Pelita Fajar*, with Ms. Paulina as the

headmistress and ten teachers. In the first year, *Pelita Fajar* School just had fifty three children. In the second year, *Pelita Fajar* had one hundred and two children, and now in the third year it has one hundred and seventeen children. This progress is really motivating, not only for the institution but also the headmistress and teachers, to offer better quality in the school curriculum and the everyday learning process at the school.

In 2009 *Yayasan Tunas Pelita Fajar* will open *Pelita Fajar* Elementary School at Jl Jendral Sudirman no 473, Bandung. With the opening of *Pelita Fajar* Elementary School next year, it is hoped that *Pelita Fajar* School can develop their education at quality in order to be recognized by people in Bandung as a school with good quality education.

The visions of education from *Pelita Fajar* School are to form children's personalities which are healthy, capable, smart, and clever, and to create children who can solve problems, who have good knowledge, and who act optimally based on religious moral values, national culture and tradition, either as individual, social or national representatives. Thus, they become capable people in handling problems in various situations.

There are several missions of education from *Pelita Fajar* School. The first is to provide teachers with the ability to give an integrated and effective education, which can stimulate children's motivation and enthusiasm in their educational process in school. The second is to give an optimum educational service based on patience. The third is to attain a

superior position in the international scale concerning educational achievement.

E. Method of the Study

I obtain the data through observation during the apprenticeship and informal talks with the teachers and the children's parents. The data for the study is acquired from the apprenticeship journal that I wrote during the apprenticeship period. I also do library research to find theories that support my analysis, both from printed and electronic sources.

F. Limitation of the Study

My discussion will be focused on the problem that makes preschool children at *Pelita Fajar* fear the new environment at school, its causes and effects, also the solution of the problem. The subject analyzed is preschool children in class A and B at *Pelita Fajar* Preschool. There are twenty six children in each class.

The children are around two or three years old who are going to school for the first time. I focus my discussion on children's characteristics, children's behavior in the class, children's ability in the lesson, and children's difficulties in participating in the lesson.

G. Organization of the Term Paper

Chapter One is the Introduction, which contains 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 Two is Problem Analysis, which contains the analysis of the factors which cause the problem discussed in the term paper and the effects of that problem. Chapter Three is the Potential Solutions, which explains three possible solutions by examining the positive and negative effects of each solution. Chapter Four is the Conclusion, which states the best solution as the analyzed result of the previous chapters and some suggestions on how to apply the solution.