

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Working as a teacher is very interesting, but it is not as easy as we imagine. Based on my experience, teaching young children needs more creativity to make them attentive to the lesson. In order to do this, a teacher should be more creative in making the lesson plan and in delivering the lessons. Besides that, as a teacher, we have to know our children's strengths and weaknesses so that we can handle them and encourage them to progress. Like Paul says in his book, "A good teacher must know the strengths and the weaknesses of their children to make them better" (119). In the situation that I faced during my apprenticeship, the strength refers to the ability of the children of three to five years old to absorb the lesson quickly, whereas the weakness refers to the children's difficulty in being attentive to the lesson in vocabulary class.

When I did my apprenticeship in KIDS2SUCCESS, I had to teach vocabulary to three children of three to five years old in Sprinter level class, and I felt it was difficult to teach them with their weakness which is

they were not attentive to the lessons in the class. They were not attentive to the lesson in the class because they are only three years old. Although based on June R. Obelander in his article, "Slowly but Steady", it is stated that "The fastest time for human's brain to grow up is in the first three years in their life" (par.3). However, children of this age can only focus on a lesson for a very short time, as stated by Vernon's in his article that, "Children three to five years old have a short attention span for three to five minutes" (par.4). As a consequence, they are not attentive to the lesson in the class. To anticipate this, I had to reprimand them by calling their names continually, although they still did not pay attention to the lesson.

I realize that calling their names is not an effective solution, and this is also wasting time because I still failed to draw their attention to the lesson when I taught them during my internship at KIDS2SUCCESS. Furthermore, some of them looked bored and sleepy, and even chatted with their friends.

Therefore, in order to find the solutions to the problem, I analyse the causes and effects of the problem. By doing this I can find the effective ways to solve the problem just to make the children attentive to the vocabulary lesson.

B. Identifications of the problem

In this paper I would like to discuss the following questions:

1. Why are the children in Sprinter level at KIDS2SUCCESS, inattentive during the lesson?
2. What will happen if the children are inattentive?
3. What are the effective ways to make the children attentive?

C. Objectives and Benefits of the Study

The objective of the study is to find out the best solutions to make the children attentive in learning vocabulary in the class. Through the study, I hope KIDS2SUCCESS can know the problem faced by the teachers and provide more effective programs for teaching vocabulary. For the readers, they can increase their knowledge about the concentration span of the children of three to five years old as this will be very useful when they teach children of this age. For me, I expect that this study will be beneficial for my future career as a teacher.

D. Description of The Institution

KIDS2SUCCESS is an English institution which has education program to teach children English language. They have programs which are designed to make the children smart in the English language. Beside that KIDS2SUCCESS also provides program such as learning English language for everyday life.

KIDS2SUCCESS was established by Erni Kosasih in 2000 and at present the management is handled by Ms. Cynthia. This institution has

already existed for nine years. This English course is a franchise and the curriculum is from Australia and this can be seen from the picture of a Kangguru. The program is focused on speaking, reading, listening skills and building the children's confidence. The children learn the English language through the computer so they can memorize the English vocabulary more easily. KIDS2SUCCESS also provides cartoon films in English language for children especially for practicing their speaking skill. The teacher in KIDS2SUCCESS uses activities such as songs and games which are compatible with the children of three to five years old. However KIDS2SUCCESS still needs the parents' cooperation to support the program by checking the children's weekly report.

E. Method of the Study

To gather the data, I did observation in KIDS2SUCCESS. I also wrote a journal based on the observation. Moreover, I did library research and browsed the Internet to collect the data needed to support my analysis.

F. Limitation of the Study

I focus my study on how the teacher teaches vocabulary to three children of three to five years old in KIDS2SUCCESS. The children whom I teach are inattentive. Therefore to handle this I did an observation at KIDS2SUCCESS.

G. Organization of The Term-Paper

The term-paper is divided into four chapters. Chapter I is the Introduction which contains Background of the study, Identification of the problem, Objectives and benefits of the Study, Description of the Study, Description of the institution, Limitation of The Study and Organization of the Term paper, Chapter II is the Problem Analysis, which explains the causes and effects of the problem faced during my apprenticeship in KIDS2SUCCESS. Chapter III is the Potential Solutions to solve my problem, with the potential positive and negative effects. Chapter IV is the Conclusion, which explains about the best solution to solve the problem. Besides the four chapters, there are Bibliography which contains the list of the sources of information I use in this study and Appendix which consists of the flowchart of my study.