

APPRENTICESHIP REPORT AT KIDS 2 SUCCESS

In globalization era, English language has become very important in every social circle. That is the reason why English language is now introduced in the earliest stage to children. 'Kids 2 Success' is one of the best institutions in Bandung which provides good medium and infrastructure for kids to learn English. I am very interested to do apprenticeship at 'Kids 2 Success' because I feel that I can gain experience in teaching and will be able to practice the theories I learned in some classes in the DIII programme for English, namely Teaching English to Young Learners, Psychological Approach to Teaching, Introduction to TEFL and TEFL.

'Kids 2 Success' was established in July 2005 and is located at Setra Sari Plaza A2, Bandung. 'Kids 2 Success' is administered by Mr. Setia Budi Teja, Bsc, Bbus. This American-based language Institution has developed rapidly, for instance in December 2005, two branches were opened : one at Parujakan 1B, Cirebon, and the other at Taman Kopo Indah II, Ruko 2A no. 55 Bandung; and in January 2007 the third branch located at Elang no. 2A, Bandung, was also opened.

There are some requirements to be a teacher at 'Kids 2 Success'; first he or she should have a Diploma in any major, second he or she should be skillfull in speaking, reading, writing and listening to English language, third, he or she should be interested in the kids world, fourth, he or she should be able to

cooperate with other teachers and staff, and lastly, before he or she becomes a teacher, he or she should become a teacher assistant and join a three-week teacher training.

When I become a teacher assistant in 'Kids 2 Success', I use a lot of equipments that could assist a teacher in preparing the material and teaching, such as, notebook, white board, marker, color pencil, double tape, printer, touch pen, cyber display station, handout and many pictures of fruits and animals displayed on the wall. These equipments are expected to help prepare the students to learn English in an easier and more interesting way.

'Kids 2 Success' is led by manager, whose duty is to control all the activities in 'Kids 2 Success'. The manager is assisted by a managing partner, marketing, teacher coordinator, administration and teachers. Marketing division has a duty to promote all programs in 'Kids 2 Success'. The administration has a duty to manage the money, and the coordinator has a duty to check and prepare all the materials that will be given to the students, and he also has to monitor all the teachers' and students' activities. 'Kids 2 Success' also has some cooperations with other schools in Bandung, by introducing English language in the form of extracurricular and intracurricular.

I should prepare teaching materials before the class start, and in the classroom I should help the teacher to see if the students need any help in doing their tasks. For example, I will write down some difficult words taken from the teaching materials on the white board and I will tell the students to repeat after me. If we still have extra time, I will ask them to draw something on a piece of paper or take them out to play a game which has a connection to the teaching materials. Through these activities I expect the children will have more interest in learning English.

If the teacher is absent, I should substitute the teacher and teach the students. Through this experience I learn more about how to be a good teacher and how to handle the children in the classroom. I also give the students homeworks and tests, and I take notes about the students' activities in the classroom.

There are four English skills that I usually use when doing the apprenticeship at 'Kids 2 Success'. I use listening skill to listen to the teaching materials from the computer and to listen to all the answers or questions from the students. I use my reading skill to read stories and materials. Then I use speaking skill while I teach. I use my writing skill when I make a report about the activities in the class room.

During the apprenticeship I did not find any difficulties in listening and reading. However, I realize that I have some weaknesses in writing and speaking. I need to improve my English because I sometimes still have pauses in my speech and I still make mistakes in the process of writing, especially in grammar.

With all the routines during my apprenticeship period, I learn more about English education for kids. I learn how to make a relaxed and fun atmosphere that can help the students to enjoy studying in the class. I also learn how to deliver English lessons in a fun way, and it is not only from the book, but also from the films, games and songs, for example learning how to spell and remember all the letters from the ABC's song.

However from these experiences, I feel more confident to interact with kids and have better understanding towards kids characteristics. Now I use make simple words to explain the materials so that students can understand easily. I can also be more creative in teaching. Being a teacher assistant in 'Kids 2 Success' also trains me to be patient and be a discipline person.

I hope that 'Kids 2 Success' will apply better criteria in selecting future teachers, and I wish 'Kids 2 Success' to pay more attention to the maintenance of the teaching aids, such as touch pen and notebook because they are really needed for teaching and learning process. I also hope that DIII programme for English can expand the cooperation with other institutions of education and other companies, so as to provide more choice of places for students to do apprenticeship. It would even be better to provide apprenticeship places that can accommodate each student's abilities.