

As an international language, English is very important because it is useful in the real working and business world. Many schools and institutions in Indonesia provide English lessons. English is considered as an important subject for people to learn. Beside learning at school, people can also learn English by attending some courses. One of the courses is Kids2Success, which I choose to be the place for my apprenticeship in Bandung.

Kids2Success was founded in July 2005 by Mr. Setia Budi Teja, B.Sc. B.Bus., in Surya Sumantri Street, Setrasari Plaza A/2, Bandung. Now, Kids2Success has more than 70 active students, and the number increases every month. This institution provides English lessons for children. It also provides writing and reading lessons in Bahasa Indonesia for children under 5 years old. To help the teachers, Kids2Success provides some facilities that can support the classes such as whiteboard, computer or notebook, DVD, printers, projectors, stationery supplies, and Cyber Display Station, which is an electric touch board where every lesson material is displayed. All students and teachers can use the Cyber Display Station interactively.

There are some requirements for those who want to be a teacher at Kids2Success. First, they must be skillful in English listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Second, they must have the capability to work in a team with other teachers and staff. They also should love children and have good appearance, attitude, and

discipline. Last, they have to be teacher assistants for 1 until 2 months and finish the teacher training for about 3 weeks before teaching permanently at Kids2Success.

In this apprenticeship, first I became a teacher assistant. I was supervised by Ms. Manis Respatiwan, SH. As a teacher assistant, I did several activities, such as preparing teaching aids and learning the lesson materials before entering the classes. In the class, I observed how the teacher treated and taught the children. I also helped the children to understand the lessons, which were given by the teacher. I helped them to pronounce difficult words by writing the words on the whiteboard and pronounce the words one by one then asked the children to repeat it. To make the situation fun, the teacher and I asked the children to do some activities such as drawing, coloring, singing, and playing some games during the intervals. The teacher also asked me to check the children's homework and tests.

The problem which I had during the apprenticeship was dealing with the children because I did not have any experience in teaching children and I had only little knowledge about children's characteristics. Also, the children still could not speak English well and always forgot the lessons which were given. Sometimes I used Bahasa Indonesia to explain the materials to the children.

During the apprenticeship, I succeeded in developing my English skills, such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Basically, I used my English listening and reading skills while I prepared the lesson materials from the computers. Every lesson from each different level is available in every computer at Kids2Success and it contains activities for the students with pictures and sounds. I also used my English reading skill while checking their homework and tests. I used my English speaking skill while explaining about the lesson and asking the children some questions about it to make sure that they have understood about the lesson.

However, I felt that I have not used my English speaking skill often enough in the class because the children still could not speak and understand English well, so I often used Bahasa Indonesia to explain the lessons to the children. However, I quite often used English during conversation with the other teachers outside the classes. I used my English writing skill when I had to write words or sentences on the whiteboard while explaining the material to help the children understand the lessons.

During the apprenticeship, I could also use the knowledge that I got from the classes at D-III English Programme, Maranatha Christian University, Bandung, such as Psychological Approach to Teaching English class, Conversation classes, Interpreting classes, Listening classes, and Pronunciation classes. Conversation, interpreting, and pronunciation techniques helped when I explained the lesson materials to the children. Listening skill helped me when I prepared the lesson materials from the computer. The theories of Psychological Approach to Teaching English helped me when I had to deal with the children's characteristics and behavior.

Based on the supervisor's evaluation, I have succeeded in fulfilling Kids2Success' requirements. I could do team work; I could adapt well to the working situation; I followed every rule and instruction; I was disciplined, creative, and loyal; I also had a good attitude. The supervisor also saw my improvements in English listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. However, she told me that I was weak in grammar. Therefore, I should learn more about grammar and improve it in speaking and writing, especially in combining some words into right and good sentences.

In conclusion, this apprenticeship is very important and useful for me. Besides improving my English skills, it is an important and valuable experience for

me in teaching children. I can learn more about teaching and realize that being a teacher is not easy. Teachers should be patient and love students. I can also learn how to understand the class situation and socialize with people at work.

I think it is good that D-III English Programme makes an apprenticeship program because the students can apply their knowledge through this program and it is useful for them to prepare them for the real working world in their future. Furthermore, as a suggestion for D-III English Networking, I think it is good if D-III for English Networking Programme offers more suitable places for the apprentices. As for the institution, I suggest that Kids2Success be more selective in determining in which level a new student should go into. It would be better if Kids2Success does a placement test first for new students. Another suggestion is that it is best for the head principal of Kids2Success to help the teachers make the lesson plans because lesson plans are very important in teaching and learning process. If the teachers do not have them, they cannot decide and focus on which material should be given to the students in every meeting.