Education is a fundamental thing that is needed by the entire citizen to develop their country. Without education, citizen’s life will be full of inanity and will lead them to poverty. The essential term of education in human’s life motivates me to be a teacher. Nowadays, many schools are established: public schools, private schools, and international schools. These schools offer various kinds of programs. For example, the international school applies a program from Singapore, but the condition and environment of Singapore and Indonesia are different. Therefore, not all the programs can be applied to Indonesian children. That is why parents must be more critical in choosing the right school for their children.

I choose Santo Yusup Elementary School because the school uses an attractive and integrated learning. This school applies interactive teaching method, which means the students are trained to be active in speaking out their minds. The school has a special English program (external) for the third grade until the sixth grade, which is called English For Young Learners. The purpose of this program is to support the internal English program. Therefore, I can learn more about interactive teaching. Besides, I have a chance to get experiences in teaching elementary students directly and evaluate all the methods that I use.

Santo Yusup Elementary School was first established in 1934, known as Santo Agustinus Elementary School (Berchmanschool). In the year of 1956, the school was managed by the Dutch government for the Dutch children who stayed in Bandung. Afterwards, in July 1958 the school was being taken over by the Ordinis Sanctae Crusi (OSC). The OSC was initiated by three pastors: Pastor Jakobus Hubertus Goumans OSC, Pastor Marinus Nillesen OSC, and Pastor Johanes de Rooj OSC. The aim of OSC is to expand some social missions, such as development
of schools, orphanages, and hospitals. With the moral and material support from the Santo Petrus’ believers, Santo Yusup Elementary School continues to develop.

I was an “English For Young Learners” teacher for the third grade elementary students. There were 12 to 13 students in the class. As an English teacher, I am expected to master English teaching methodology, especially the material that must be delivered to the children. Consequently, I must prepare all the materials before teaching. Even though the method is fun English learning, I must be able to discipline the children.

In a week, I teach for about 80 minutes. I prepared the materials, which were a three-chapter student book (App. 3) and a three-chapter activity book (App. 4). Each chapter was delivered in two meetings by using additional instruments, CD (App. 2) and CD player. Each meeting consists of three sub topics. The first meetings of each chapter described about the new vocabularies, conversations, and speaking exercises. The second meetings were about pronunciation and conversation exercises.

After the three chapters are done, I talked about all the things the students have learned to make them memorize it. I taught the student listening skills by playing the CD and guiding them in filling the blanks of the exercises. Afterwards, I gave them a test to evaluate their listening skills. The students’ pronunciation is also being trained to make them able to pronounce the right English words. To know their speaking improvement, I prepared a speaking test based on the conversation exercises. There were also some leisure activities, such as taking the students to watch English cartoon from DVDs, e.g. Lion King 3, or giving other projects, such as: making a birthday card, coloring and guessing the pictures, and many more.

The method of teaching in the “English For Young Learners” program at Santo Yusup Elementary School is emphasized on the speaking and listening aspects. The aim is to let the students accustomed to use English as a second
language. However, the written and reading aspects are still needed because all of
the aspects above are connected and completing each other.

The use of English aspects:

1. Speaking

I spoke English to the students, for example in explaining things, correcting their
pronunciations, and giving instructions. If there were difficult explanations or
instructions, I still used English. The strategy in explaining the difficult instructions
is by giving examples. If the students still cannot catch the point, I helped them by
explaining in Indonesian.

2. Listening

I used CD and CD player in the lesson, so before and during the lesson I listen to
the CD (App. 2). I also have to listen to the students’ pronunciation when they
were doing the exercises.

3. Reading

Before I delivered the lesson to the children, I need to read all the materials, the
student book (App. 3) and the activity book (App. 4). Besides, I also have to read
all the exercise’s instructions in English.

4. Writing

In giving the explanations, sometimes I must write it down on the whiteboard so
the students can easily understand the meaning. I also gave comments for each
student on their report book. Besides, I also wrote for the lesson plan (App. 1).

There are many D3 English Program subjects that have helped me during the
apprenticeship. The subjects are:

a. Word Pronunciation and Pronunciation in Phrases → in pronouncing words and
   phrases correctly

b. Structure for High-Beginning Levels and Structure for Pre-Intermediate Level →
in teaching grammars to elementary students
c. Listening for High-Beginning Levels and Listening for Social Interaction → in listening to stories or DVD

d. Search Reading and Explanatory Reading → in reading the instructions

e. Vocabulary for Everyday Survival and Vocabulary for Social Interaction → in teaching the conversation vocabularies

f. Conversation for Everyday Survival and Conversation for Social Interaction → in explaining the materials to the students with English

g. Reflective and Argumentative Writing and Practical Writing → in writing the comments for their half-year report

h. Introduction to TEFL, Techniques for TEFL, Psychological Approach to Teaching, and Teaching English to Young Learners → in dealing with the children, making lesson plans, and how to teach them effectively

i. Effective Oral Presentation → in presenting the materials in front of the students

j. Etika Bisnis → in making a good relationship with colleagues, supervisors, and children

The interactive method of teaching that I use is quite successful. It can be proven from the students test results that are above the average mark. With a small number of students in the class, it was easier for me to monitor their improvement. Some students were quite active and have simplified my tasks in monitoring and teaching them.

The obstacle in teaching English at Santo Yusup Elementary School is to control the children when they are in the English laboratory. The problem is I do not apply enough rules for the students from the first meeting. When the students are studying in the English laboratory, which is a room with a big carpet, some of the students are laying on the carpet. Other problems that I face during the apprenticeship are the CD player sometimes cannot read the CDs so I must read it for the students, and there are some students who do not like to watch movie so I
must give them an extra project, such as coloring, drawing, making mini book, and many more.

It would be better if the D3 English Program cooperates with some schools, for example by holding a two-week program to visit the schools. The first week of the program is for visiting the school and learning the methods which are used by the English teacher in that school and the students’ behavior and attitude. Then in the second week of the program, the university students are given the opportunity to teach English in the class. With this kind of program, all the university students will have a real situation on how to do the apprenticeship in teaching.