

Improvement of Social Skills in Early Childhood THROUGH THE ROLE-PLAYING METHOD

Miftakul Jannah

Kindergarten Dharma Wanita Ngompro 2, Indonesia

Email: miftakulj014@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Early childhood is in a golden age where they must receive various stimulation and various learning received from both the family environment and society, whether intentionally or unintentionally. At an early age, children's basic abilities are developed to become the initial foundation for the child's further growth and development, including the child's social skills which form the child's character in the future. This article aims to describe improving the social skills of early childhood through role playing methods. The research method used in this article is literature review, by searching, collecting and selecting journal articles as library material which are then analyzed to solve a problem. The research results obtained show that children's social skills can be improved through role playing methods, such as children being able to work together with friends, being able to interact well, being able to control themselves, being able to empathize, being able to obey rules and being able to respect other people. So the role playing method is an effort to improve children's social skills.

Keywords: *Social skills, learning methods, role playing*

INTRODUCTION

Early childhood refers to children from birth to the age of 6. This age is a crucial period in the formation of a child's character and personality (Sujiono and Sujiono 2010). The formation of a child's character and personality from an early age is very important so that the child can have a strong, resilient, and brave mentality, enabling them to face challenges, changes, and situations in future life. Early childhood is a golden period where they must receive various stimuli and learning experiences from both the family and community environment, whether intentional or unintentional. At an early age, a child's basic abilities are built as the initial foundation for their subsequent growth and development, including social skills that shape the child's character in the future. According to Morrison (2012), children's social skills include the following: 1) helping children learn how to adjust to other children and adults and how to build good relationships with teachers; 2) helping children learn how to help others and develop a caring attitude.

Having good social relationships with others is very important for children. A child who is free to engage in social relationships will be more effective in carrying out social interactions because the child can choose and perform consistent behaviors that align with environmental demands. In contrast, a child who does not have many opportunities to

engage in social relationships will differ from a child who is free to engage in social interactions. Early social experiences greatly determine a child's personality as they grow into adulthood and also influence the level of social participation of individuals in childhood and adulthood (Hurlock, Higashino et al. 2009). Related to the child's still lacking social skills, it will cause problems such as the child experiencing difficulties in adjusting to a new school environment, the child being unable to cooperate with friends, unable to adapt, unable to interact well, unable to control themselves, unable to empathize, unable to follow rules, and unable to respect others. Thus, the child's social skills cannot develop optimally. Children who lack social skills are very likely to be rejected by their peers. Conversely, children who have developed social skills will gain acceptance from peers, acceptance from teachers, and success in their studies.

Early childhood social skills can be developed through various methods, one of which is role-playing activities, as this method allows children to gain direct experience in how to interact with their environment (Insani, Pargito et al. 2015) conducted research on the effectiveness of role-playing as a guidance model in developing social skills in gifted children. The research findings indicate that the role-playing model is effective as a guidance model in developing social skills in gifted children. Based on this, this research focuses on improving social skills through role-playing buying and selling from aspects such as showing independence in choosing activities, being willing to share, help, and assist friends, showing enthusiasm in engaging positively in competitive games, controlling emotions, adhering to the rules of a game, demonstrating self-confidence, protecting oneself from the environment, and respecting others.

METHOD

This research uses a qualitative research type with a literature study method known as a literature review. Literature study can be conducted by collecting references consisting of several previous studies, which are then compiled to draw conclusions (Drs 2006). The data collection technique used as library material is journal articles. Where the author searches for and selects articles on improving early childhood social skills through role-playing methods. The data analysis technique was conducted on various data obtained using the descriptive analysis method by presenting the facts, then analyzing and describing them, and providing sufficient understanding and explanation. The researcher selects the necessary data and determines which data is not needed. In the analysis, selection, comparison, combination, and selection will be carried out to identify the relevant ones (Sabarguna 2005).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Literature Review Result

Based on the research conducted using the literature study method, which involves collecting references and processing materials relevant to the issue or case being addressed. The results of the literature review in the article showed that there is an improvement in the social skills of early childhood children through role-playing. Here are the review results from several article sources used in the research.

Table 1. Literature Review Summarize

No	Penulis	Judul	Hasil
1.	(Nurhayati, Pratama et al. 2020)	The development of social interaction in enhancing Social-emotional skills through the game of congklak In children aged 5-6 years	The result is that the game congklak can foster social interaction in children. The game of congklak is a traditional game that can be played in pairs. Children can learn while playing, and in addition, playing can also enhance social interaction. social. Training patience and precision in the game of congklak.
2.	(Yuningsih, Pudjiastuti et al. 2021)	The implementation of role-playing as an effort to improve Social skills of preschool children	The results of the research obtained the learning process using the method role-playing contributes positively to improving the social skills of Al Husna Kindergarten students in Depok. Aspect social skills that include: following rules, waiting for turns, respecting, participating, cooperating, being confident, daring to perform, being cheerful, listening, speaking, making eye contact have improved.

3.	(Sintia, Kuswanto et al. 2021)	Improving language skills through role-playing in early childhood	The research results concluded that there is a change in the development of social skills through the application of the outbound method in developing children's social skills.
4.	(Rofiah 2022)	Development of children's social skills through the role-playing model "market day" at Ra Fitri Mulia Gebang – Patrang - Jember	The results of the research show the development of children's social skills through the role-playing model "market day" on the theme "myself" as a teacher's innovation. This model allows children's social skills to begin to develop.
5.	(Dinawati, Syaodih et al. 2019)	Improving children's social interaction skills through Macro role-playing method	The research results show that the macro role-playing method can improve social interaction skills children of class A2 TK Negeri Pembina Sadang Serang. That can be proven with the increase in each action on its indicators
6.	(Miranda, Berenguer et al. 2023)	Childhood language skills as predictors of social, adaptive and behavior outcomes of adolescents with autism spectrum disorder	The conclusion of this longitudinal study highlights the significant impact of language skills on various areas of development in children with ASD.
7.	(Lahiya, Hasini et al. 2022)	Improving early childhood social-emotional intelligence through role-playing methods in group b	The results of this study show the success of role-playing in developing the socio-emotional aspects of early childhood. Through the learning cycle conducted, there were a majority of children who experienced social-emotional development aspects growing as expected.
8.	(Rufaidah 2018)	Improvement strategy of early childhood language development through the	The research results show that the strategy of enhancing early childhood language

		role playing methods in macro play center at ra. Baitussalam cimahi	development through role-playing methods indicates an improvement in children's language development.
9.	(van der Wilt, de Moor et al. 2023)	The direction of the relation between oral communicative competence and social preference in early childhood classrooms, and the role of dialogic classroom talk	The research results indicate that the strategy of enhancing early childhood language development through role-playing methods shows improvement. This study seems to highlight the importance of children's social preferences in developing adequate communicative abilities. and that children's language development.
10.	(ten Braak, Størksen et al. 2019)	Bidirectionality in self-regulation and academic skills in play-based early childhood education	The results show that these skills, presented in a fun way, can support children's transition from a play-based kindergarten context to a more formal learning environment in the classroom.
11.	(Agusniatih and Manopa 2019)	Early childhood social skills: theory and development methods	The result is that social skills can improve through role-playing methods.
12.	(Kurniati 2016)	Traditional games and their role in developing children's social skills	The results of the research indicate that the social skills of early childhood can develop through modified traditional games.

Results

Based on the review of 12 journals examined by the author, there are various improvements in early childhood social skills through role-playing methods. Learning social skills is one of the stages of a child's ability to socialize and interact with others, which children engage in from an early age. Learning social skills should be conducted through various enjoyable games for children. Several research findings in the form of journals prove that various play activities can enhance the social skills of early childhood children.

Research results (Sudarto 2018) on children aged 4-5 years at TK Panca Setya Sintang. The improvement in children's social skills includes being patient in waiting for their turn, being willing to share with friends, being willing to join friends in play,

adhering to the rules agreed upon in the game, and being willing to cooperate with friends. Based on the research results, the implementation of role-playing methods in learning can improve social skills in Group B children at Dharmawanita Punjul I Kindergarten, Plosoklaten District, Kediri Regency. This is demonstrated by the improvement in the children's abilities. According to the research results (Rachman and Cahyani 2019), there is a development of social skills in early childhood. The development of early childhood skills is influenced by the environment, especially teachers and parents. Research by Jennings and DiPrete (2010) proves that teachers have an impact on students' social skills, which in turn affects academic achievement. The impact on children's social skills is greater compared to their academic development. Social skills have a positive impact on the development of academic abilities at the early elementary school level. Therefore, it can be concluded that social skills are very important for early childhood as a preliminary preparation for socializing and communicating with others.

Based on the above description, it can be concluded that role-playing can enhance children's social skills. Role-playing is done by children to portray a character of their choice in both micro and macro forms. The activity of role-playing while learning is enjoyable for young children in enhancing their social skills. Naturally, play motivates children to learn something more deeply, and spontaneously, children develop their abilities. Some measurable indicators of early childhood social skills include the child being able to wait patiently for their turn, the child being willing to share with friends, the child being willing to join friends in play, adhering to agreed-upon rules in play, and the child being willing to cooperate with friends.

CONCLUSION

Learning social skills is one of the stages of a child's ability to socialize and interact with others, which begins at an early age. Learning social skills should be conducted through various enjoyable games for children. According to (Elliott, Malecki et al. 2001), social skills are indicated as important skills for individuals to achieve success in social and academic life and can play a crucial role in preventing negative behavior.

According to (Hurlock 1978), role-playing or what is called pretend play is a form of active play where children, through clear behavior and language, interact with materials or situations as if they were actually happening. Role-playing activities conducted with many children and using rules during the activity can foster children's social skills. Based on the literature review above, it can be concluded that early childhood social skills can be enhanced through role-playing buying and selling. Several journals explain the importance of social skills for early childhood as initial preparation for socializing and communicating with others. Therefore, role-playing buying and selling is one of the enjoyable methods that can enhance the social skills of early childhood children.

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