

Children's Empathy Attitude in The Storybook "Kue Kimu" By Lia Herliana And Ratu Wulan

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Abstract

One of the emotional intelligences of a person is empathy, which is the ability to understand the suffering of others and to understand the opinions and feelings of others. Setting a good example and showing tolerance are important components of parenting strategies that aim to help children develop empathy. Parents should show empathy so that their children can learn from their example. Reading children's storybooks is one way to instill empathy in children, a trait that needs to be cultivated from an early age. This is because reading storybooks can stimulate children's many senses and help them become more socially intelligent. The type of research used in this study is library research. In this study, researchers used a qualitative approach which is a non-numerical data-based approach or using manuscript documents with existing thoughts. After the researchers analyzed the storybook "Kue Kimu", the attitude of children's empathy that is most visible in the storybook is Kimu's caring attitude towards his friend, Nara, who is absent from school due to illness. The storybook entitled "Kue Kimu" can be a reading material to be read and to teach empathy values by sharing, caring, compassion and there is also the value of children's creativity in the book. Reading storybooks can also improve children's interpersonal intelligence.

Keywords: children's intelligence, storybooks, empathy

1. Introduction

The period of human growth that precedes adulthood is called childhood. Childhood is a time of rapid growth and development in various areas of life, so it is very important for parents to provide physical and psychological support to their children to ensure that they have a quality golden age or golden period where they can fulfill their developmental tasks and grow and develop to their full potential. Children grow and develop rapidly during the "golden years", and their growth at this age has a significant impact on the way they live in the future or at later stages of development. Given that childhood is a time of character formation and that children still need parental guidance and direction in order to grow and develop with good character according to today's standards, parents should pay attention to the growth and development of their children. A person's early years are crucial to their growth. Children grow and develop rapidly during this time, on all levels physically, cognitively, and emotionally. This time frame also lays a strong foundation for the future development of children's personalities, abilities, and mindsets. Therefore, it is important for parents, educators and the general public to have a deep understanding of early childhood development.

One of a person's emotional intelligence is empathy, which is the ability to understand and live the emotions of others from their own point of view (Findhi Atika Sari, 2024). Experts define empathy as the ability to see, understand, and react to other people's emotions with full awareness and understanding. By cultivating this empathy, we can improve interactions with those around us and allow ourselves to receive new experiences that give color and purpose to our lives.

Children who have empathy are able to recognize and understand others as unique individuals with unique personalities and emotions. Setting a good example and showing tolerance are important components of parenting strategies that aim to help children develop empathy. Parents must demonstrate empathy so that their children can learn from their example. Empathy is a quality that is felt emotionally and can be seen through all five senses. Reading children's storybooks is one way to instill empathy in children, a trait that needs to be cultivated from an early age. Reading storybooks can stimulate many of a child's senses and help them become more socially intelligent. Like the value contained in the book "Kue Kimu" by Herliana and Ratu Wulan is very good to be used as an example in cultivating empathy and can also be a picture of children in empathizing with friends or others.

Children who are able to understand the suffering of others and understand the opinions and feelings of others are called having empathy. Although children are born with empathy, the trait needs to be cultivated more deeply so that it becomes ingrained in them. Thus, when children grow up and interact with friends or other adults in a social setting, they will be able to behave well and support each other, which will help them be accepted both in society and in the classroom.

Understanding oneself, understanding others and performing social roles are three fundamental abilities that children must have to build quality social relationships, according to Gardner in his book *Understanding Early Childhood Problems* (2017: 31). In particular, the ability to empathize with others will help one develop or instill empathy, which is essential for a successful social life and the ability to adapt. As a result, children will be able to control their emotions, which includes the desire to apologize when they make mistakes, the desire to play together, understanding the needs of their friends, and the desire to help friends who are struggling.

2. Research Methods

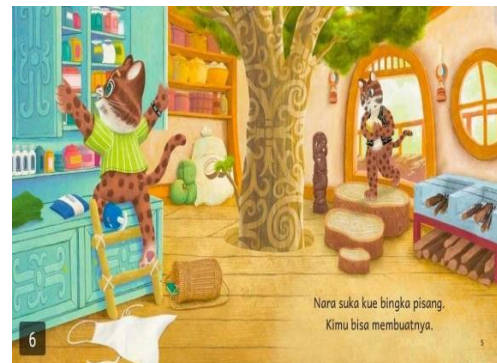
The type of research used in this research is library research or Library Research. Library Research or library research is a type of research that makes library materials in the form of books, scientific magazines, documents, and other materials that can be used as a reference source in this research (Hadi, 2004: 9). In this study, researchers used a qualitative approach which is a non-numerical data-based approach or using manuscript documents with existing thoughts. And researchers also use a content analysis model to reveal the messages contained in a storybook entitled "Kue Kimu" by Lia Herliana and Ratu Wulan as the object of research. The data collection technique used by researchers is the documentation method. The documentation method is a data collection method used to trace historical data by collecting data through archives and including books on theories or laws related to research (Iryana, 11). The data analysis used in this research is content analysis. Content analysis is a strategy to capture the message of literary works. According to Weber, content analysis is a research method using a set of procedures to make valid inferences from text (Shidiq 2011: 103).

3. Results and Discussion

Empathy for young children is the ability to understand and feel the feelings of others, even at an early stage of development. Encouraging empathy from an early age helps children grow into individuals who are more sensitive and caring towards others. At this age, children begin to learn to recognize their own emotions and the emotions of those around them. Here are some aspects of empathy that are important for early childhood:

1. Observing Emotions: Children begin to recognize facial expressions and body language, which helps them understand the feelings of others.
2. Responding to Emotions: They learn to respond in a supportive way, such as comforting a sad friend or sharing a toy.
3. Sharing and Cooperation: Children learn the value of sharing and cooperating with friends, which is an important part of empathy.
4. Stories and Role Play: Through stories and play, children can understand others' points of view and develop empathy.
5. Modeling Adults: Children often mimic adult behavior, so it is important for parents and caregivers to show empathy in daily interactions.

After the researchers analyzed the storybook "Kue Kimu", the most visible attitude of children's empathy in the storybook is Kimu's caring attitude towards his friend, Nara, who is absent from school due to illness. Kimu is worried and wants to go to Nara's house to visit her. And he remembered that Nara likes bika banana cake so after school he immediately made the cake to give to his friend Nara. Kimu's sharing nature can be used as an example to teach children the nature of empathy with an attitude of care, compassion and sharing towards fellow friends or others



Sharing attitudes or prosocial behavior are voluntary actions taken to help or provide benefits to other people or groups of people. Some experts explain the definition of prosocial behavior as follows:

1. According to Myers, prosocial behavior is positive behavior that is done without expectation of reward and aims to make the physical or psychological condition of others better.
2. According to Baron, Byrne, and Branscombe, prosocial behavior is an action taken by individuals to help others without expecting direct benefits for the helping party.
3. According to Staub, prosocial behavior is behavior that provides benefits for the recipient but does not provide clear benefits for the perpetrator.

Early childhood education is a form of education service for children aged 0 to 6 years, provided before children enter primary school education. The goal is to achieve the maturity of child development, which is to ensure that all developmental tasks (thinking/cognitive, communication/language, physical/motor, emotional and social skills) can grow, develop, and no aspects inhibited. PAUD experts believe that developmental barriers will affect children's lives in the future, such as being less able to solve problems and easily giving up in life's competition. Therefore, as far as possible from an early age a child is important to be guided, educated, trained so that all aspects of their development can grow progressively according to their age. (Masnopal, 2018: 2)

In the storybook entitled "Kue Kimu" researchers also found Kimu's creative attitude, this can be seen when Kimu made a cake for Nara, he forgot to apply oil before putting the dough on the cake mold which eventually the cake became sticky and slightly damaged the shape of the mold, but he had the idea to decorate the cake so that the cake still looked beautiful and beautiful to look at. And finally the cake was finished and ready to be delivered to Nara with a happy heart.



4. Conclusion

Based on the research exposure above, the storybook entitled "Kue Kimu" can be reading material to be read and to teach empathy values by sharing, caring, compassion and there is also the value of children's creativity in the book. By reading storybooks can also increase children's interpersonal intelligence. Because reading storybooks to early childhood has many benefits, including stimulating children's imagination, allowing them to fantasize and think creatively about various situations and characters, also through stories, children can learn to recognize and understand the emotions of characters, which can improve their empathy skills, and many stories contain moral messages that can teach important values, such as honesty, friendship, and courage. With these many benefits, reading storybooks is an invaluable activity in supporting early childhood development.

References

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