



## **Developing Language Skills for 4-5 Years Old Children at RA Muslimat NU 1 Tulus Rejo Kec. Pekalongan Through the Development of Ice Cream Stick Media**

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### **Abstract**

sticks are learning media that can stimulate the teaching and learning process. The use of ice cream stick media at RA Muslimat NU 1 Tulus Rejo Kec. Pekalongan has not been used in learning, besides that the media material for ice cream sticks is very easy to get and cheap. The language ability of children aged 4-5 years is the lowest level of achievement compared to other abilities. development of ice cream stick media at RA Muslimat NU 1 Tulus Rejo with the following steps: 1) Ice cream sticks were developed into letter sticks. One side is written with letters, one side is also written with letters, 2) At first the child reads the letters on one side, 3) If correct, the child may read the letters on the other side. 4) If the child wants to learn to read, the game is reversed, the child reads one side of the letter first and then opens the side with the letter on the other side, 5) If the child answers correctly, he/she is given a picture of a smile, and if he/she answers incorrectly, he/she is given a picture of crying. The use of ice cream stick media for children aged 4-5 years at RA Muslimat NU 1 Tulus Rejo can improve children's language skills.

**Keywords:** Ice Cream Stick Media, Language Ability

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Efforts to develop early childhood can be done in several ways. These efforts include through the development of learning that gives children the opportunity to explore through play so as to open up space for children to be able to develop various intelligences (Windayana 2014). One of the efforts made is by developing learning media.

The word media comes from the Latin medium which means intermediary or introduction. Furthermore, Rahardjo said, the media is a means of channeling messages or learning information to be conveyed by the message source to the target or recipient of the message. In teaching and learning activities, the source of the message is the teacher and the recipient of the message is the student (Umar 2014). Learning media are everything that can stimulate the teaching and learning process

to occur (Steffi Adam 2015). In this study, it will develop learning media in the form of ice cream stick media.

Props are tools for children to remember lessons. Ice cream stick props can make an impression on the heart because children really like ice cream. In line with the child's bond with the props, he was also reminded of the lessons delivered by the teacher. The younger the child, the more concrete/visualization is needed (needs more props) that he can touch, see, feel and hear (Nurhayati 2020). Stick Game Ice Cream is a game made of plastic in the form of a tower consisting of wooden sticks arranged on a table. These sticks are deliberately colored to attract children's interest to play (Sri Suharti 2018).

Stick props are very effective tools to explain, for example: to explain the age, number, characteristics, character or nature of a character. With props, sticks that are pasted with pictures are clearer than being explained by words alone. So that children can appreciate the letters described (Nurhayati 2020). As for the reason for choosing ice cream stick media in this study, it is useful to increase attention by being invited to actively pay attention to what the teacher teaches. One thing that must be remembered, with the existence of this stick teaching aid facility, and if the use of teaching aids is followed by the active child method, the teaching effectiveness will be even better. The selection of ice cream sticks is because children really like ice cream, so the use of ice cream sticks can make children fantasize about holding ice cream. In addition, ice cream sticks can also be recycled into various shapes and creations. The use of ice cream stick media at RA Muslimat NU 1 Tulus Rejo Kec. Pekalongan has not been used in learning, besides that the media material for ice cream sticks is very easy to get and cheap. Therefore, the authors are interested in conducting research using ice cream stick media.

Language is part of culture or in other words language is under the cultural environment. Language is the main element that contains all elements of human culture. Now other elements of culture have developed language is only one element but its function is very important for human life (Hidayat 2014). The language ability of children aged 4-5 years is the lowest level of achievement compared to other abilities, therefore the authors choose to improve children's language skills.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The stick learning media product that will be developed aims to produce an appropriate educational game tool product for children in the 4-5 year age group at RA Muslimat NU 1 Tulus Rejo. The developed media products aim to overcome learning problems in the classroom and outside the classroom. Therefore, the research was conducted using research and development methods or in English called Research and Development (R & D), namely research methods used to produce certain products and test the effectiveness of these products. According to Sugiyono that research "Research and Development is a research method used to produce certain products and test the effectiveness of these products" (Sugiyono 2010). Learning products developed can be in the form of modules, multimedia, educational game tools, learning videos, learning audio and others so that they can function in the wider community, especially in the field of education. The developed media products aim to overcome learning problems in the classroom and outside the classroom.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of this research are not only to develop an existing product, but also to find knowledge or answers to practical problems. The product developed in this research is ice cream stick media to develop the language skills of children aged 4-5 years at RA Muslimat NU 1 Tulus Rejo Kec. Pekalongan.

The product that has been developed is then validated by several experts before being tested, validation is carried out by 2 experts, namely one material expert and one media expert who is an expert in their field.

### 1. Product Validation

#### a. Media Expert Assessment Results Media

Expert validation, which in this case is a lecturer at the Ma'arif Islamic Institute (IAIM NU) Metro, who has the qualifications of Early Childhood Education, so that the results of the media that will be developed are in accordance with what the authors expect and can be used by early childhood. The media expert is Mr. M. Saidun Anwar, M.Pd. The validation results from media experts can be seen that the ice cream stick media gets a percentage of 100%, so it can be said that the ice cream stick media is very feasible.

#### b. The results of the Expert Assessment of Materials

Expert validation, in this case a lecturer at the Ma'arif Islamic Institute (IAIM NU) Metro, who has the qualifications for Early Childhood Education, so that the material in the media that will be developed is in accordance with what the authors expect and has an impact to increase children's abilities. The material expert is Mrs. Leli Fertiliansa Dea, M.Pd. The validation results from material experts can be seen that the ice cream stick media gets a percentage of 96%, so it can be said that the ice cream media is very feasible.

### 2. Product Trial

Early childhood is a very decisive period for the development and further growth of children, because it is a sensitive period and a golden period in a child's life. Some aspects of child development that can be developed for an early age include religious moral, social emotional, cognitive, language, physical, motor and artistic aspects. Given the many aspects of development that must be possessed by children, the stimuli and stimuli given must be appropriate. One of them is the development of children's language skills.

Language is part of culture or in other words language is under the cultural environment. Language is the main element that contains all elements of human culture. Now other elements of culture have developed language is only one element but its function is very important for human life.

Language ability is the ability, skill, wealth of speech, thoughts and feelings of humans through arbitrary sounds, used to cooperate, interact, and identify themselves in good conversation.

The following is a daily learning implementation plan (RPPH) using ice cream stick media at RA Muslimat NU 1 Tulus Rejo Kec. Pekalongan, namely:

a. Theme

Implementation of this research was carried out on Wednesday, October 27, 2021, for children aged 4-5 years at Raudlatul Athfal Muslimat NU I Pekalongan with the theme "Plants" Sub-theme "Fruit Plants" Sub-sub-theme "fruit".

b. Materials Objective

The objectives of the material contained in the fruit theme in the study are as follows:

- 1) Children can recognize apples
- 2) Children can recognize star fruit
- 3) Children can recognize cherries
- 4) Children can recognize pomegranates
- 5) Children can recognize oranges
- 6) Children can recognize kiwi fruit
- 7) Children can recognize mangoes
- 8) Children can recognize jackfruit
- 9) Children can recognize bananas
- 10) Children can recognize strawberries
- 11) Children can recognize tomatoes

c. Opening (15 Minutes)

As for the opening stage, the activities carried out are as follows:

- 1) Greetings, prayers before the activity begins
- 2) Carry out student attendance activities
- 3) So that learning activities begin with a happy and fun atmosphere, singing, memorizing and moving freely are carried out
- 4) Then the teacher explains the theme "Plants" The sub-theme "Fruit Plants" The sub-theme "fruit" will be taught.
- 5) Teachers and students ask questions about the theme "Plants" Sub-theme "Fruit Plants" Sub-sub-theme "fruit"

d. Core Activities (45 minutes)

- 1) The ice cream stick was developed into a letter stick. One side is written with letters, one side is written with letters as well
- 2) At first the child reads the letters on one side
- 3) If correct, the child may read the letters on the other side
- 4) If the child wants to learn to read, the game is reversed, the child reads one side of the letter first and then opens the side with the letter on the other side
- 5) If the child answered correctly, he was given a picture of a smile, and if he answered incorrectly, he was given a picture of crying

e. Closing (15 minutes)

In the closing activity, the things that were carried out were as follows:

- 1) Frequently asked questions about daily activities
- 2) Sing some children's songs/clap
- 3) Informing tomorrow's play activities
- 4) Praying home, greetings

Based on the daily learning implementation plan (RPPH) at RA Muslimat NU 1 Tulus Rejo Kec. Pekalongan, researchers can describe the steps for using ice cream stick media, as follows:

- a. Based on the results of the research, the shape of the ice cream stick was developed into a letter stick. One side is written with letters, one side is written with letters as well, based on the following picture:



**Figure 1 Eskim sticks in the form of letter sticks**

Based on the picture above, it is known that the aesthetic stick has two sides, on one side there are pictures of fruits and on the other side there are letters. At first the child reads the letters on one side

- b. Based on the results of the study, the child's first step was asked to read the letters on one side of the ice cream stick. Based on the following picture:



**Figure 2 At first the child reads the letters on one side**

Based on the picture above, the use of ice cream sticks media at first only showed one side only for the children to answer.



- c. If correct, the child may read the letters on the other side.

Based on research, if the child answers correctly on one side of the ice cream stick, then the child may read on the other side of the ice cream stick, based on the following picture:



**Picture 3 Children reading ice cream sticks the other side**

Based on the picture above, after the child answers the ice cream stick on one side, then the child is then given questions related to the other side of the ice cream stick, to be answered according to the existing questions.

- d. If the child wants to learn to read, the game is reversed, the child reads one side of the letter first and then opens the side with the letter on the other side

Based on the results of the study, to develop a child's reading ability, the child was asked to read the side of the letter then if it was correct, the child was asked to read the other side of the ice cream stick. According to the following picture:



**Figure 4 Reading ice cream sticks on both sides**

Based on the picture above, the child is asked to read one side of the ice cream stick and then continue to read the other side of the ice cream stick.

e. If the child answered correctly, he was given a smile image, and if he answered incorrectly he was given a crying image

Based on the results of the study, if the child can answer correctly the questions on the ice cream stick, then the child will get an emotion prize in the form of a smile, and if the wrong one gets a crying emotion, according to the following picture:



**Picture 5 Children get smile emotion if it's true**

Based on the picture above, if the child answered correctly, he was given a picture of a smile, and if he answered incorrectly, he was given a picture of crying.

This research was conducted on children aged 4-5 years at RA Muslimat NU 1 Tulus Rejo Kec. Pekalongan for 4 weeks with the initial step, namely making a product design for ice cream sticks media. Furthermore, the researchers validated the design to two experts, in this case, media experts and material experts. After the two experts stated that the ice cream stick media that the researchers developed was very feasible, the next step was to test the product to children aged 4-5 years at RA Muslimat NU 1 Tulus Rejo Kec. Pekalongan. After the trial, it was proven that the ice cream stick media could improve the language skills of children aged 4-5 years at RA Muslimat NU 1 Tulus Rejo Kec. Pekalongan.

Based on the pre-survey data, there were 5 children who got the undeveloped category of early childhood language skills, 5 children who got the category of starting to develop, 5 children who got the developing category as expected, while no one got the very well developed category. Meanwhile, after testing using ice cream stick media, the language skills of early childhood who received the category of starting to develop were 4 children, children who obtained the category developed as expected as many as 6 children, children who obtained the category of very well developed as many as 5 children, while there were no which is in the undeveloped category.

The results of this study are as follows: the development of ice cream stick media at RA Muslimat NU 1 Tulus Rejo with the following steps: 1) Ice cream sticks are developed into letter sticks. One side is written with letters, one side is also written with letters, 2) At first the child reads the letters on one side, 3) If correct, the child may read the letters on the other side. 4) If the child wants to learn to read, the game is reversed, the child reads one side of the letter first and then opens the side

with the letter on the other side, 5) If the child answers correctly, he/she is given a picture of a smile, and if he/she answers incorrectly, he/she is given a picture of crying.

The use of ice cream stick media for children aged 4-5 years at RA Muslimat NU 1 Tulus Rejo can improve children's language skills. This is based on pre-survey data for children who received 5 children in the undeveloped category, 5 children began to develop, 5 children developed according to expectations, while no one had very well developed categories. Meanwhile, after using the ice cream stick media, the language skills of early childhood who received the category began to develop as many as 4 children, the category developed according to expectations as many as 6 children, the category developed very well as many as 5 children, while no one got the undeveloped category.

## CONCLUSION

In the research that the researchers did, there were some that were developed from the ice cream sticks themselves, so that they could be used as educational props as learning support for early childhood. The development of the ice cream stick itself is colored paper and pasted various shapes of fruits and shaped into an alphabet.

The results of the development of ice cream sticks in early childhood learning are classified as having a good success rate for aspects of children's language development. However, there are some children who do not have the development as expected. Of course this is a stepping stone for improving the product and learning that is developed.

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