

Implementation of Collage Techniques to Improve Cognitive and Fine Motor Skills in Children Aged 4-6 Years

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Abstract

Early childhood development is an essential period for establishing the groundwork and gaining abilities that will impact a child's life ahead. A child's growth is influenced by the stimulation they experience; when they receive adequate stimulation in their early years, children will mature and develop suitably for their age. Some of the essential areas of growth include cognitive abilities and fine motor skills. An engaging educational task that promotes both cognitive skills and fine motor abilities is creating collages. Collage consists of crafting art by adhering dry leaves or various materials to a flat surface or drawing with glue. This service seeks to present new strategies for children, promote imaginative learning techniques, and enhance the growth of cognitive and fine motor skills to guarantee healthy development. The service involved 30 children between the ages of 4 and 6 through techniques like parent socialization, training, and mentoring for children. The technique of creating collages was especially effective for improving cognitive and fine motor skills, as it allows children to enhance their problem-solving skills and reinforces their small muscle development.

Keywords: Collage Technique, Cognitive Ability, Fine Motor Skills.

INTRODUCTION

Regulation of the Minister of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology Number 5 of 2022, which details the standards for early childhood development, specifies in Article 4 that essential elements of early childhood development encompass religious and moral values, Pancasila values, physical motor skills, cognitive abilities, language, and socio-emotional growth (Permendikbud No. 7, 2022). The early years of a child's life are vital for building the groundwork for personality and abilities, shaping their future (Talango, 2020). When a child's development receives adequate support during the early stages, every facet of their growth will advance successfully. Development from childhood to adulthood is systematic, continuous, and progressive (Diani et al., 2022). Nonetheless, obstacles in a child's growth may stem from factors like developmental disharmony, which can hinder the process (Trivina et al., 2024).

Cognitive development is a journey that improves a child's capacity to understand and use information. It is crucial for children to obtain stimulation to develop their cognitive skills, which significantly influence their intelligence (Fidesrinur et al., 2022). Cognitive growth in early childhood varies from that of adults, especially concerning memory, which is more readily established during this period. As per

Hijrati (Salmitha et al., 2022), children's cognitive processes greatly impact their intelligence and capability to articulate thoughts while learning and playing.

The development of fine motor skills is another important facet of early childhood growth. Fine motor skills refer to the small muscle actions, like those needed to grasp, squeeze, throw, draw, or accurately manipulate objects (Yeni, 2020). Hurlock (Hengki Primayana, 2020) defines fine motor development as the coordination of small muscles, crucial for activities such as catching, cutting, sticking, or drawing. These tiny muscles manage intricate movements of the fingers and wrists.

Children require suitable stimulation for the effective development of cognitive and fine motor skills. If a child gets sufficient stimulation in their early years, they will grow in line with their age. On the other hand, inadequate stimulation may result in developmental setbacks (Ahmad Afif et al., 2023). A productive learning task that can enhance cognitive and fine motor skills is creating collages.

Collage consists of making art by adhering dry leaves or various materials to a flat surface with glue (Zakiyyah et al., 2023). This method improves fine motor abilities by having the child organize and adhere materials, thereby

fostering hand-eye coordination. Collage tasks, utilizing items like vibrant paper, leaves, and seeds, enhance creativity while promoting fine motor and cognitive abilities (Semata et al., 2022).

Community service is an essential component of higher education, designed to fulfill faculty performance criteria, guarantee proficient graduates, and positively impact society (Suheri, 2018). In accordance with the institution's philosophy, Tri Dharma activities encompass education, research, and community engagement. Teaching staff at Tribuana Kalabahi University are involved in community service with the Imanuel Mola Congregation, concentrating on kids aged 4 to 6 years. This service aims to:

- A. Providing new breakthroughs to children aged 4-6 years
- B. Teaching children to learn and play in a more creative way
- C. Helping children to train aspects of cognitive and fine motor development in children aged 4-6 years

Based on the following objectives, a title can be taken Implementation of collage techniques to improve cognitive and fine motor skills in children aged 4-6 years at the Imanuel Mola Congregation.

METHOD

This task engaged 10 students from the PG-PAUD Study Program at Tribuana Kalabahi University, who supported the facilitator in helping children with the collage creation process. A total of 30 kids, aged 4-6 years, took part in the activity. The strategies used for the collage technique involved social interaction, education, and guidance. Data gathering occurred via observation and record-keeping.

Timing and Place of Execution

The community service event occurred at the Imanuel Mola Church on Monday, October 28, 2024. The event took place over 2 hours, starting with parent socialization from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM, and then a collage-making session for children from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

Instruments and Resources

The resources and supplies utilized for the collage-making method were readily available and safe for the kids. Materials from the children's surroundings were chosen for the activity.



Execution Steps

1. Social interaction

At this point, the facilitator shares with parents details regarding the advantages of collage technique activities for the growth of children.

2. Education

In the training session, the facilitator shows the children what steps to take and how to carry out the collage-making procedure.

3. Guidance

The mentoring stage includes watching the children while they participate in the collage-making process and offering support when necessary.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Activity devotion to community activities carried out in the church immanuel mola passes a number of stages among them is

a. Planning

In the planning phase, 10 students are chosen to help the facilitator carry out the community service project centered on collage-making methods for children. Once the team is gathered, the facilitator finds an appropriate venue for the event and interacts with the church to talk about the objectives and advantages of collage-making for kids between 4-6 years old. After obtaining approval from the church, the facilitator and students start preparing the required administration, which includes creating the activity timetable, detailing the order of

events, organizing the tools and supplies, and planning rewards for the children.

b. Implementation

At the implementation stage, the facilitator informed the parents about how collage-making methods aid in children's cognitive and motor growth. Following the socialization session with the parents, the facilitator directed the students to gather the essential tools and materials for the children. After preparing the tools and materials, the students organized dry leaves, red seeds, and glue for distribution to the children.



Figure 1. Division tools and materials to children

Children who have get tools and materials will be accompanied by students for direct they method to stick leaves and seeds red in the picture of the fish that has been prepared.



Figure 2. Child is do technique making collage

In the process of pasting children directed For be creative as free as possible in accordance with will they However there is applicable provision that technique the pasting is done No may go out from existing fish image.



Figure 3. Attachment process

c. Closing

After doing the collage pasting technique, each child holds the results of their work and takes pictures as evidence of the child's work. The speaker does not forget to praise the children's work as a form of appreciation and support for the children so that they do not give up and continue to learn.



Figure 4. Children together results work attachment collage

The results of the work done by the children were collected and photographed. Then will saved as learning process results child.



Figure 5. Results of the work children

Children given a reward as sign greeting accept love Because has participate with Good besides that's for the children more spirit and not separated hope.



Figure 6. Children given a reward after finished finish attachment collage

CONCLUSION

The technique of creating collages is an inventive and artistic educational activity aimed at enhancing cognitive skills and fine motor abilities in children. It entails organizing and fastening vibrant bits of paper, foliage, and seeds to an already sketched image or design. By looking at the image or pattern, children become involved and are less prone to losing interest. They take pleasure in ripping tiny bits of paper and gluing them together, which aids in strengthening their small muscles while also fostering problem-solving skills. When children pinch, glue, and arrange paper pieces, their hand coordination automatically enhances, and their cognitive abilities are engaged as they work to accurately imitate the pattern and produce the intended picture. The collages are created with readily available natural materials that are child-friendly and help produce an attractive artwork. The components utilized consist of mahogany foliage, red seeds, fish-shaped collage designs, and adhesive. This educational approach not only fosters the development of different skills but also presents creative strategies to enhance the learning experience, making it more enjoyable and captivating for children.

SUGGESTION

The suggestion from this service is that early childhood education should regularly

incorporate new, inventive, and engaging learning techniques to avoid boredom. Moreover, these techniques can assist in maintaining children's active involvement in learning, which will ultimately support their positive growth and development.

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