

Increasing Parental Engagement in Learning Communities: Solutions to Support Early Childhood Learning at Home

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ABSTRACT

This study uses a literature review system where this study aims to identify solutions in increasing parental involvement in learning communities to support early childhood learning at home. The results of this study show that there are several solutions to increase parental involvement in the learning community, including building positive communication with early childhood so that early childhood can feel comfortable and safe from home, utilizing information and communication technology in children's learning at home such as inviting early childhood learning using educational animated videos. This research shows that learning communities can be an effective solution to increase parental involvement in supporting early childhood learning at home. This literature review uses databases from Google Scholar and Researchgate to identify journals that are relevant to the inclusion and exclusion criteria set.

Keywords: *Increasing Parent Engagement, Solutions to Support Early Childhood Learning at Home, Learning Communities.*

INTRODUCTION

Childhood, especially early age (0-6 years) is a critical period in human development. Today, children experience rapid growth and development in various aspects, including physical, cognitive, social, and emotional. Early childhood education plays an important role in supporting the optimal development of children during this period.

Early childhood is an important and very vulnerable period for children to be involved in further development. Therefore, caution must be exercised when providing important precautions and advice to children to avoid unwanted events that can affect children's growth and development. Psychologists use the term "infancy" to refer to a variety of individuals who exhibit recognizable childhood characteristics of child psychology, such as collective age, age of imitation, exploration of identity, and creative age. (Santrock, 2011: 7, (Rahmadina, Khairunnisa, Firminia, 2021)).

Among the factors contributing to ECCE success, parental involvement is key. Parents are first and foremost teachers for their children. Parental support and involvement in children's learning at home can provide many benefits such as improving children's learning achievement, building strong relationships with children, improving children's social and emotional skills.

According to Islamic law, the responsibility of parents towards their children starts from the implementation of obligations to the right to care and maintenance (alhadanah), starting from the child in the womb to approaching adulthood. Hadanah refers to maintaining a person's overall well-being, including their physical, mental, and social well-being as well as their intellectual growth (Suprianti & Arifudin, 2023). Therefore, parents must give rights to their children, especially in the field of education. It is strongly implied in the figure of Education Ki Hajar Dewantara that learning and educating activities are like activities that are deliberate but at the same time natural such as playing in the "park" for children and adults from an early age (Supriani & Arifudin, 2023).

In addition to parents, the role of teachers is also needed in early childhood because ECCE teachers and education personnel have an important role in learning communication in early childhood education because they have the skills and knowledge needed to support optimal child development. ECCE teachers and education staff are not only teachers, but also facilitators, motivators, guides, and important liaisons in the early childhood learning community, they contribute holistically to ensure optimal development and development for their students.

Education in early childhood requires the role of the family, especially parents. Because it is in the family that the beginning of the child's character is formed. Furthermore, it can be through non-formal or formal education. Non-formal education is through TPA (daycare park), family planning (Playgroup) and PAUD (Early Childhood Education), while the formal is through kindergarten (kindergarten). (Darmawan, August 2021, pp 183-188).

However, the busyness and involvement of knowledge about ECCE is often an obstacle for parents to be actively involved in children's learning at home. This is where the learning community comes in as an effective Solution to improve parents. Learning communities provide a platform for parents to connect, share experiences, and learn together about various aspects of ECCE. By joining a learning community, parents get insights and updates on early childhood development and smooth learning methods, exchange tips and strategies with other parents on how to care for and raise a child, and connect with experts and you can receive support and motivation from other parents and give it to each other.

RESEARCH METHODS

Research methods in journal articles using System Literature Review (SLR). According to Gough et al. (2012) SLR is a research method that aims to identify, evaluate, and synthesize all available research evidence, related to a particular topic. SLRs can be used to answer specific research questions or to get a comprehensive picture of current research in a particular field.

Synthesizing is combining information from multiple sources to produce a more comprehensive and coherent understanding of a topic. The goal is to understand complexity, identify knowledge gaps, develop new theories, and improve the quality of decision-making. The benefits are increased efficiency, accuracy, and creativity.

This research uses a literature review (SLR) systematic, explicit, and reproducible method to carry out identification, evaluation and synthesis of research works and the results of thoughts that have been carried out by researchers who aim to identify, review, and evaluate all research determined this research consists of several stages, including:

First, the question is what is the role of parents in the early childhood education learning community?

Second, the data collected in this study focused on Enhancing Parental Engagement to Support Early Childhood learning at Home. The Study literature search began by using data contained in Google Scholar and also Researchgate with the keywords used were *Increasing Parental Involvement in Learning Communities: Solutions to Support Early Childhood Learning At Home* with journal year limits from 2019 to 2024.

Third, after getting various journals, researchers got 30 journals related to early childhood learning communities on Google Scholar Database searches, then 21 journals obtained on researchgate Database searches there were a total of 51 journals related to the topics studied from several journals. Then 16 journals that have been researched and studied were then included in detail into 7 journals that are in accordance with the theme of discussion. Then 35 is not included in the discussion or search. Researchers included the remaining 7 articles as SLR reviews.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

When children have problems, parental support helps them mobilize against *stressor*. Parental support is an individual's recognition that he or she is part of a social network where each member supports each other. ("Shafa, Athirah, and Erika, 2021").

According to Saurasan (Shafa Rahmadina, Athirah Khairunnisa, and Erika Firmiana, 2021), parental support is the presence, sadness, and care of people we can trust, who respect and love us. A similar view is also expressed by Cabb (in "Rahmadina, khairunnisa, and Firmiana, 2021") which defines parental support as providing comfort, attention, gratitude, appreciation or helping people with an attitude of accepting their condition, family support can be obtained from individuals or groups.

It can be concluded that parental support is related to forms of emotional and physical comfort. This is a form of encouragement, encouragement, advice, care, and acceptance, given by parents to their children and can be useful to help children solve problems, fight *stressors*, or other conditions. ("Rahmadina, Khairunnisa, and Firmiana, 2021").

Based on the journal sources sought, 7 inclusion criteria have been determined, so the information on the results of the research is as follows in table 1 below

Table. 1 Research Results on Increasing Parental Engagement in Learning Communities: Solutions to Support

Researchers and Research Years	Journal	Research Results
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International Conference on Learning Community (ICLC)

<p>Eka Nurjanah Tsatul Mukarromah January,2021</p>	<p>Journal of Digital Media-Based Learning in Early Childhood in the Era of Industrial Revolution 4.0: A Literature Study</p>	<p>In the era of COVID-19, teachers and parents collaborate and communicate related to early childhood learning. In this era, parents play an active role in assisting children's learning via online, both through whatsapp groups, google meet, zoom, etc. Then educators make digital media plans that will be used according to the needs and characteristics of early childhood. Educators can choose digital media for interaction with children such as game applications, video or image viewers such as YouTube, quiz viewers, and other learning applications.</p>
<p>Monica Widyasari September,2023</p>	<p>Journal of Obsession: Journal of Early Childhood Education Implementation of Positive Communication in Increasing Early Childhood Learning Motivation.</p>	<p>Positive communication can help build early childhood motivation or ECCE because educators will use fun language in learning, so that children feel comfortable and do not decrease the level of motivation in learning. So positive communication carried out by teachers or education staff to students is, a. respect, b. empathy, c. audible, d. clarity, e. humble</p>
<p>Puji Astuti Sri Watini Year 2022</p>	<p>Journal of Non-Formal Education: Increasing Interest in Learning Using Fun Play Modules in Early Childhood</p>	<p>Fun singing activities can foster children's interest in learning, proven to be assessed by 6 indicators, namely</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Feeling of liking or pleasure 2.) Preferable statements 3.) There is a sense of attraction 4.) There is awareness of learning without being told 5.) Participate in learning activities 6.) Pay attention. <p>Because through singing, children can feel happy in the learning process, so that children</p>

		can live every learning they undergo, meaningful to children and can be applied in everyday life.
Riana Widiyawati Year 2021	Title: The Role of Parents in Implementing Online Tutoring from Home during the COVID-19 PandemI Period	This journal explains that the role of parents in the Covid-19 era is very much needed in online learning or learning from home. Because in this era, parents are required to be able to replace the figure of the teacher in assisting children's learning. Parents must be able to act as facilitators, motivators and good influences on their children.
Agung hidayatullah Laily Fauziah December 2020	Parental Involvement in Early Childhood Education in Islamic ECCE units	The journal explains the need for parents to be involved in their children's education so as not to seem one-way, because parents should be proactively involved in children's education. It's like parents are not just waiting for the ball, but they are required to pick up the ball.
Khotimah Zulkarnaen Year 2023	The Role of Parents in Shaping the Independence of Children Aged 4-5 Years	This journal explains how the role of parents is very important in the formation of independence attitudes in early childhood before being prepared for the world of formal education. Because there are 3 roles of parents, the first is as a guide, building good communication with children through advice and giving sincere praise when children do something good.
Fitri Wahyuni Midshahri Azizah Year 2020	Journal of Cultural and Religious Play and Learning in Early Childhood	Learning while playing activities carried out by early childhood with feelings of pleasure, without coercion, but have patterns that are expected to create results for good development in children. Playing while learning in early childhood has a purpose that may not be realized by adults, where when children play are actually developing the potential contained in themselves to become a solid initial capital in the future.

Discussion

Seven journal studies describe how early childhood requires motivation and guidance as they grow and develop. Therefore, parents play an active role in children's growth and development. One form of early childhood growth and development is to provide appropriate education, one of which is the Early Childhood Learning Community. These early childhood learning communities can be created through kindergartens and playgroups. This allows the child to develop further, training gross and fine motor skills, as well as social and emotional skills, even in kindergarten. And teachers help children develop in more targeted ways.

Teachers can also provide educational guidance to early childhood with various methods, one of which is by singing ASYIK, because by singing ASYIK early childhood will be happier in learning and will motivate early childhood more in gaining knowledge, because this method is one of the effective ways to guide early childhood education (PAUD) by utilizing children's cheerfulness and pleasure in singing. Many benefits are obtained when applying this method, namely to improve children's communication skills, develop cognitive, motor, and creativity of children, build children's self-confidence and independence, instill moral values and positive character in children, strengthen bonding, and emotional relationships between parents and children. Fun play is not just a learning method, but also a philosophy in guiding early childhood education. Behind the joy and pleasure of singing, there is a noble goal to deliver children to the gate of knowledge with enthusiasm and love of learning. More than just learning language and communication, singing helps children develop various aspects of intelligence, at the same time this method also instills moral values and positive character traits such as self-confidence, independence, and cooperation. Fun singing is not only about creating cheerfulness, but also about planting seeds of knowledge and positive character in early childhood. With a variety of interesting songs, movements, and activities, children will be motivated to engage in the learning process.

And from the seven journals above, several learning methods can be taken that parents can apply at home to educate their children, one of which is by communicating positively to children, because by providing positive communication to children can foster emotional intelligence through positive communication in early childhood. Because early childhood is a golden period of brain development and children's intelligence, including emotional intelligence. And this is where the role of parents and educators is very important to provide positive communication to children. Positive communication is not only about good words, but also about building a warm and loving relationship with the child. Parents should be role models for children in positive, polite, and polite ways of communicating. By providing positive communication, parents can help children to develop good emotional regulation, build positive relationships with others, foster self-confidence because children will feel valued and loved and help children to grow into confident and happy individuals, improve learning skills and focus on achieving children's potential.

Furthermore, parents can also apply learning methods through animated videos or educational images that can build many important aspects of their development. Cognitively, animated videos or educational images help improve learning skills, critical thinking skills, and problem-solving skills. Linguistically, animated videos or educational images can increase vocabulary, speaking skills, and the

ability to understand something. Socially and emotionally, animated videos or educational images help improve emotional skills, social skills, and creativity.

In addition, parents can read story books according to the age of early childhood and early childhood interests because by reading picture books that are suitable for children and their interests will have many benefits, namely, developing interest in reading in children from an early age, can establish close relationships between parents and children so that they feel comfortable and can also develop empathy. Enriching insights such as different cultures, interesting places or scientific discoveries, can instill moral values to children because after reading the story to children parents can discuss what messages can be taken from the story. So taking the time to read books at an early age is valuable for their future. Reading storybooks to early childhood at home is not just an activity to fill spare time, but is an important investment to build the next generation who are smart and character, because this activity is like opening the gate of knowledge and fostering a love for the world of literacy from an early age. Behind the interesting stories in storybooks, there are a myriad of benefits that support children's cognitive, language, and social emotional development. More than just getting to know new vocabulary and sentence structure, reading storybooks helps children understand moral values and positive character traits, such as honesty, kindness, and responsibility. Parents can also take advantage of this moment to establish emotional closeness with children, create a sense of security and love, and strengthen invaluable bonding. Therefore, the role of parents at home is very much needed to build children's motivation to learn in formal education such as kindergarten or early childhood education, because parents have provided informal education provisions to children and live in the redevelopment of early childhood knowledge and creativity in formal education.

During COVID-19, the role of parents at home is very important in helping smooth learning. Parents at home must be able to guide early childhood learning at home, supervise children in learning activities, and also guide early childhood to learn so as not to feel bored and bored. Parents and teachers work together for smooth early childhood learning at home. Parents must provide a sense of comfort to early childhood in order to increase children's motivation to start learning from home, parents strive for various ways to make early childhood comfortable in learning at home, one way is to provide a comfortable and quiet learning place so that early childhood can focus on receiving the knowledge conveyed. There is an analogy written in the journals written by Agung Hidayatullah and Laily Fauziah that parents are not only waiting for the ball, but they are required to pick up the ball, in this case "waiting for the ball" can be interpreted as parents who are passive and only wait for children to learn with their own initiative, even though at an early age they really need support and guidance from the main partners in the family, namely parents. While "picking up the ball" describes the role of parents who are active in creating a conducive learning environment and motivating children to be enthusiastic about learning. In other words, parents can't just wait for a child to ask questions or ask for help when learning difficulties. Parents must be proactive in accompanying children to learn, finding the right learning methods, and ensuring children have everything they need to succeed.

CONCLUSION

In this study obtained 7 journal results that have been studied, the role of parents is very important in shaping the way of thinking and personality of children, and by providing good experiences at home at an early age, children can increase their interest and motivation in learning. For example,
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parents provide positive communication to children making children feel safe and comfortable, because their parents provide positive things in terms of communication. In addition, parents can train early childhood at home to prepare children to continue their level to formal education by being equipped with things that educate early childhood such as providing animated videos or educational pictures in order to increase children's vocabulary, and can also through reading storybooks so that children can understand instructions and concentrate can also strengthen early childhood memory.

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