

# Introduction of Loose Part Media as an Effort to Increase the Creativity of Children Aged 5-6 Years: A Qualitative Study in Early Childhood Education

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## Abstract

*Purpose:* This study aims to examine the concept of using loose part media for children's freedom in creativity, as well as its benefits for the development of children's creativity. As well as identifying the advantages and disadvantages in the implementation of the loose part method in learning.

*Methodology:* This study uses a qualitative descriptive method with data collection techniques based on observation, interviews and documentation. The research subjects involved teachers and group B children at Aisyiyah Pucangan Kindergarten.

*Results:* The results of the research show that the Loose Parts method can be a very effective tool in increasing children's creativity, but keep in mind that its use must be done with several considerations, its application needs to be done appropriately to maximize the benefits and avoid shortcomings.

*Applications/Originality/Value:* Loose parts media have a very positive impact on learning in PAUD because of its loose nature and easy to get in the surrounding environment and its many varieties make it easier for teachers to provide it for student learning media. Loose parts media provide new innovations in learning in PAUD because it can improve students' thinking skills, both critical thinking skills, creative thinking skills.

## Introduction Section

Education at an early age is a very important education for children in the future (Ministry of Education and Culture, 2022). Creativity is defined as an individual's skill in making something new, in terms of ideas and real works, and not similar to what already exists. Supriadi (Maulina & Suhaibah, 2024) states that creativity is a high-level thinking ability that allows the development of thinking skills, which are characterized by succession, discontinuity, and difference. Learning in PAUD involves children aged 0-6 years. One of the characteristics of early childhood schools is that they love to play, like to move, and like group activities (Hendrowati et al., 2024)

Meaningful learning for early childhood must be seen from several principles, namely children must have readiness in terms of age, physical ability, mental and emotional maturity; packaged in the form of play and games; involve a lot of children; fun; and supported by a learning environment that provides many memorable experiences and insights (Wahyuni et al., 2020). Childhood is a sensitive time that is very important for a child's education at that time, forging will give a strong mark in the child's later life (Hayati & Putro, 2021). An approach that has begun to be widely applied to support the development of creativity in children is through loose part interactive media.

Media based on natural materials is called loose part media, according to (Safitri et al., 2021). Creativity has the function of developing all the potential abilities of children in describing feelings and obtaining something new related to the learning process. If its potential is well developed through an exploratory creative play learning design, this is supported by the results of research conducted by (Heldanita, 2019)

One of the exploratory media that plays an important role in the development of children's creativity because children as unique human beings always interact with the surrounding environment in exploring their learning experiences. Selection of freelance media/ loose part is also one of those obtained from the child's immediate environment where the concept according to research conducted by (Nurjanah, 2020).

Teaching materials are one of the important factors in improving the quality of learning and the abilities of students which are arranged based on suitability with the characteristics and needs of children, increased development that is expected to be achieved (Najamuddin et al., 2022). Easy-to-get media, Helping Teachers to Get Cheap Learning Media (Veryawan & Tursina, 2022)

Loose parts is an easy-to-move material to carry, combine, redesign, separated and reunited in various ways (Hadiyanti et al., 2021). The loose part helps children to take risks, explore and investigate while actively engaged,

sensory, collaborative, and play drama (Wahyuningsih et al., 2020). The material can be used independently or in combination with other materials. Loose parts game media materials are introduced to children from an early age with simple language that is widely found in the environment around children.(Fransiska & Yenita, 2021).

## Research Methods

The research method used is a qualitative descriptive research method where the researcher will specifically describe data in the form of facts that actually come from the implementation of learning applied in group B, data obtained through interview results, and observations combined with data obtained from documentation techniques. The place of this research was carried out at Aisiyah pucangan Kindergarten,. The reason for the research is that there are problems related to the development of creativity. Data collection techniques through observation, interviews, and documentation and then processed in a systematic way. Data analysis techniques using Miles & Huberman so that the results of the introduction of loose part learning media for children's creativity

## Research Results and Discussion

### Result

Loose Part is a game that involves moving, merging, redesigning, adjusting, separating, and reuniting various materials provided in various ways. This raw component can be used independently or combined with other materials. The components of these materials can come from natural or artificial, such as stones, sand, gravel, fabric, shells, wood branches, plants, grains, and others. Children can be creative in doing various activities using their imagination and fantasy with the materials that have been provided (Dini, 2023)

The application of this research was carried out at Aisiyah Pucangan Kindergarten in the 2023/2024 even semester academic year. The implementation of the research is 5-6 years old. This research is by conducting observations, interviews and documentation. The results of the observation, the activity of introducing loose part media to increase the creativity of children aged 5-6 years at Aisiyah Pucangan Kindergarten, it is important for teachers to introduce children to the media loose part/ freelance media, Loose Part It is rich in creative ideas and allows children to use it according to their choice, so that it can be manipulated to their liking. So that loose part enabling open learning and encouraging more active interaction in the school environment (Siantajani, 2020)

Interview results Media introduction activities loose part to increase the creativity of 5-6 Year Old Children at Aisiyah Pucangan Kindergarten, before applying the media loose part Children become less creative, and less interested in learning. Learning media Loose part are materials that can be manipulated, combined, rearranged, moved, separated, and reassembled in different ways as a play medium for children to experiment with that can create infinite toys that develop according to the child's imagination(Farida, 2020). Children's curiosity can be facilitated naturally with the presence of media loose part who are in the environment around the child. Media loose part can include natural materials, plastics, metals, wood, packaging containers, and so on. When children play in a space or with an object, they tend to experience it uniquely. Teaching methods Loose Part has unlimited potential in supporting early childhood learning. After Loose Part used, children can explore various fields such as problem solving, creativity, perseverance, fine and gross motor skills, science (science), linguistic development, art, mathematical logical thinking, engineering, and technology. Thus, Loose Part can be a very effective teaching medium in increasing children's potential in various fields (Kulsum, 2022).

### Discussion

Loose Parts It is an ideal learning medium for children, especially early childhood because of its material, authentic, open, imaginative, and stimulating nature. Characteristics



Figure 1. Material loose part

According to Buhri (Kulsum, 2022), Loose Part has several benefits, including

- a. Improves children's creativity and play
- b. Improving their socialization and cooperative attitude
- c. Increase children's physical activity
- d. Improve children's communication and negotiation skills, especially when taking place in the outdoors
- e. Sharing memorable and quality experiences in play that allow children to fully engage and encourage their creative abilities
- f. It is more economical because it is easy to get and cheap
- g. From one time to another makes it very memorable in line with the development of children's skills because it can be changed every day



**Figure 2.** Activities while playing loose part

To develop creativity in children is the activity of playing loose parts. It allows the child to experiment, explore, and interact with his environment indirectly, and find self-satisfaction. The facts show that when children are given the right to explore games that are done by themselves using only the tools and materials as they are, the work they obtain can exceed the goals set by the teacher. Loose part media can help increase creative imagination in children, especially early childhood. This media can also provide opportunities for children to speak freely, which results in unique satisfaction for children after the activity is completed.

Advantages and disadvantages of using Loose Part Media as a learning medium (Murgiyanti, 2022) The advantages and disadvantages of loose part media as a learning medium are as follows:

1. The advantages of loose parts in their use are:
  - a. Can be used in a variety of activities
  - b. Can be used repeatedly
  - c. Can be turned into a display and tool
  - d. Can stimulate various aspects of children's growth
  - e. It can spur children's creativity to utilize the objects around them

Can help children develop the ability to find solutions in life in the It can be a child's encouragement when expressing their various talents and desires

2. The disadvantages of loose parts are:
  - a. Mistakes in the application of methods can cause children to feel bored in learning
  - b. Mistakes at the time of invitation and provocation can hinder the improvement of children

## Conclusion

The introduction of Loose Part media during the learning process in early childhood offers freedom for children to be creative and imaginative without certain limitations, this media involves materials that can be moved, combined, redesigned and manipulated according to the child's wishes.

Overall, the loose part method can be a very effective tool in developing the safety and safety of students, ensuring that the material is not dangerous or data causing injury, ensuring the safety and relevance of the materials used according to the age and needs of the child.

In accordance with the elaboration of the results and discussions that have been submitted, it is recommended that PAUD teachers use loose part media available around children to increase creativity in early childhood. There are several kinds of materials or loose materials around the child's environment that can enrich play activities and allow children to pour out their creative ideas. In addition, teachers can also seek other approaches, both similar to this research and those that are further developed according to the condition of students and teachers' expertise when applying scientific methods in the early childhood education institutions where they teach

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