

Volume: 6 Nomor: 2 Tahun 2019
[Pp. 143-158]

SMART PARENTING: TEACHING ENGLISH FOR KIDS AT HOME

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Naskah diterima tanggal: 22 Oktober 2019

Selesai tanggal: 25 November 2019

ABSTRACT

This article discusses the role of parents especially the mother in caring and guiding their children to learn and study English at home. English as a second language acquisition in Indonesia made this language important to be learned by children. The earlier the children study English, the better English they have. This study is a qualitative research using literature review method. The collection data used is literature review. The data are taken from the references deal with the research focus such as journals, articles, and books. This articles found that many activities can be occurred by the smart parents in learning English at home with their children such as reading an English book stories, watching English movies, singing an English children song, coloring English vocabulary pictures, playing English vocabulary games, and playing a role play. The parents are also must prepare the English book stories, English children movies, English children songs, coloring English vocabulary pictures, and English vocabulary dictionary.

Keywords: *Smart Parenting, Teaching English for Kids, Home*

Artikel ini membahas peran orang tua terutama ibu dalam merawat dan membimbing anak-anak mereka untuk belajar dan belajar bahasa Inggris di rumah. Bahasa Inggris sebagai penguasaan bahasa kedua di Indonesia menjadikan bahasa ini penting untuk dipelajari oleh anak-anak. Semakin dini anak-anak belajar bahasa Inggris, semakin baik bahasa Inggris yang mereka miliki. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian kualitatif dengan menggunakan metode tinjauan pustaka. Data pengumpulan yang digunakan adalah tinjauan pustaka. Data diambil dari referensi kesepakatan dengan fokus penelitian seperti jurnal, artikel, dan buku. Artikel ini menemukan bahwa banyak kegiatan dapat dilakukan oleh orang tua pintar dalam belajar bahasa Inggris di rumah bersama anak-anak mereka seperti membaca cerita buku bahasa Inggris, menonton film berbahasa Inggris, menyanyikan lagu anak-anak Inggris, mewarnai gambar kosa kata bahasa Inggris, bermain permainan kosa kata bahasa Inggris, dan memainkan permainan peran. Orang tua juga harus menyiapkan buku cerita bahasa Inggris, film anak-anak Inggris, lagu anak-anak Inggris, mewarnai gambar kosakata bahasa Inggris, dan kamus kosakata bahasa Inggris.

Kata kunci: *Parenting Cerdas, Mengajar Bahasa Inggris untuk Anak-Anak, Rumah*

INTRODUCTION

English as a second language acquisition in Indonesia made this language important to be learned by children. The earlier the children study English, the better English they have. The better English they have, the proud their parents. It means that parents are proud of their children achievement in English because they know that English is the third language that their children learned in their life. First, when their children were born and they had enough competence to speak, the parents teach them how to speak their parents' mother tongue. For a few years later, the parents send their children to the school; preschool or kindergarten; their children would learn the first language, that is Indonesia language or called *Bahasa*. The parents are also very proud of their first language acquisition because *Bahasa* is the national language of Indonesia. When their children start studying in elementary school or even in preschool or kindergarten, the parents are interested to make their children also acquire English as the second language in Indonesia.

It is better to acquire the second language in the children's golden age. But, it must be carried out in a proper way based on their age with a proper media used, so that the children will not aware that they are learning at that time. As the children's psychology development from Vigotsky that the children must study in a happy situation so that they do not realize that they learn at that time. It means that the children will study well when they are happy and they will acquire what being studied unconsciously.

Parents are the people who are always accompany and guide the children in their golden age. The golden age is about 1-3 years old. In their golden age, their memory like a sponge¹. They record everything they see and listen. It looks like that they record everything around them unconsciously. In this age, parents must be aware that the parents cannot take the risk in wasting this age. The parents must think what kind of method appropriated to input a meaningful activity that they can learn while they are playing because the children like to play in this age. Even they also like to sing a song in this age. As smart parents, they must think further what they want to insert in their children memory.

Children through many steps in their development. They will experience physical and psychological development. First step is physical development. It means that in the children's golden age, their body will growth fast including their speech organs such as mouth, tongue, teeth, lip and lungs. When their speech organs are perfectly developed, they can use them to produce a sound, words, and sentences.

¹ K. Madej, "Child Development" in *SpringerBriefs in Computer Science* (2016): https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-42875-8_3.

The readiness of the speech organs is actually happened after the readiness of hearing sense. As one of the important senses of human, hearing is the first sense that is functioned before other senses such as sight, smell, touch and taste senses. So, in this case two senses will help the children to learn English well. They are hearing sense and speech organs. It means that the children can develop two skills in their golden age in the form of listening and speaking skills. Speaking skill here in the form of pronouncing the English correctly and accurately through some exciting media prepared by the parents.

In this article, the researcher is interested in describing the smart parenting to guide and accompany their children in their golden age even before the children study in Elementary school, it means that in preschool or kindergarten before seven years old. This article also describes how to be a smart parent to prepare the children in achieving their future with English.

METHOD

This study is a qualitative research using literature review method. The collection data used is literature review. The data are taken from many references deal with the research focus such as journals, articles, news, books, magazines etc. This articles describe how to be a smart parent to prepare the children in achieving their future with English.

Qualitative research is a research which the data is collected in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers². It gives the important features of qualitative research in investigating the literature, such as the researcher is the key of instrument that reads the literature thrifty and the process is more priority than result, because literature establishes interpretations³.

Based on those experts, the researcher conducted this qualitative research using the literature review as the data collection. The researcher took the data from many references such as books, journals, articles, and the data related to the research focus. After the researcher collected the data, the researcher the data related to the focus and the researcher got the finding.

Finding and Discussion

Smart Parenting

In Merriam-Webster dictionary, parenting is the raising of a child by its parents; the act or process of becoming a parent; and the taking care of someone in the manner of a parent. While in Oxford dictionary, parenting is the activity of bringing up a child as a parent. From

² Bogdan, R., & Biklen, S. K. (2003). Bogdan, R. C & Biklen, S. K. (2003). *Qualitative Research for Education: An introduction to Theories and Methods* (4th ed.). New York: Pearson Education group. (pp. 110-120). *Qualitative Research for Education: An Introduction to Theories and Methods*.

³ Maxwell, J. A., & Reibold, L. E. (2015). Qualitative Research. In *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences: Second Edition*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-08-097086-8.10558-6>.

those definitions, it can be concluded that parenting is the activity that carried out by parents and children in connecting their relationship for bringing up the children's raising and growing.

Smart parenting is doing parenting smartly. Smart is a mentally alert; bright and knowledgeable. It means that the parents who carried out parenting must be bright and knowledgeable. It is very important for the parents to do well prepared welcoming when they will have a child mentally and physically. It means that when the parents decided to have a family then they will have a child, they must consider that there will be a responsibility to fulfil their children's need until the children's raising and growing such as the children's health, food, clothes, education, etc⁴.

It is not easy to be a smart parent. The parents must have smart and knowledgeable mindset. The parents must prepare themselves to acknowledge themselves by learning many books, articles, newspapers or many references about parenting. As the popular proverb in Islam about seeking knowledge from the cradle to the grave.

أَطْلُبُ الْعِلْمَ مِنَ الْمَهْدِ إِلَى اللَّحْدِ

"Seek the knowledge from the cradle to the grave"

In this proverb, the parents must aware that they can educate their children since their children are still in their mother's pregnancy. The parents especially the mother can educate their babies in their pregnancy's time. It is proved from many researches about the education in the pregnancy's time. Western health promoted to educate the babies through the mother's emotional condition and playing the relaxing music for the babies through a headphone put on the mother's stomach. It helps the babies relaxed and building the babies emotional quotient. It means that it can build the babies well-emotional quotient⁵. In Islam, the mother can play Quran verses and some Islamic songs to introduce the babies about Islam⁶. In this case, the relation of mother and baby are the strongest relationship in the world. The father helps this moment by helping his wife's emotional condition that can make the baby grow well in the pregnancy's time. The *Hadist* from Ibnu Majah said that seeking knowledge is Moslem's abligation.

طَلَبُ الْعِلْمِ فَرِيضَةٌ عَلَى كُلِّ مُسْلِمٍ

"Seeking knowledge is a moslem's obligation"

⁴ Laver-Bradbury, C., & Hooper, J. (2005). Parenting. In *Child and Adolescent Mental Health: Theory and Practice*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-375000-6.00266-4>.

⁵ Nwebube, C., Glover, V., & Stewart, L. (2017). Prenatal listening to songs composed for pregnancy and symptoms of anxiety and depression: A pilot study. *BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine*. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12906-017-1759-3>.

⁶ Mahjoob, M., Nejati, J., Hosseini, A., & Bakhshani, N. M. (2016). The Effect of Holy Quran Voice on Mental Health. *Journal of Religion and Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10943-014-9821-7>.

To be smart parent is the obligation for all Moslem parents. This *Hadist* showed that as Moslem parents, they must learn any knowledge how to raise, care, and educate their children. The knowledge to be a smart parent will make the parents can direct their children to the right path for their children's life in the future. Otherwise, the parents who do not have many knowledge how to raise, care and educate their children well, they can send their children to the wrong path for their children's life in the future. Whereas, Islam asked Moslems to leave the strong generation and the Moslems are forbidden to leave the weak generation as the Quran said in Surah An-Nisaa verse 9 as follows;

وَأَلْيَشَ الَّذِينَ لَوْ تَرَكُوا مِنْ خَلْفِهِمْ ذُرِّيَّةً ضِعَافًا خَافُوا عَلَيْهِمْ فَلْيَتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَلْيَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا

“And let those fear (in their behaviour toward orphans) who if they left behind them weak offspring would be afraid for them. So let them mind their duty to Allah, and speak justly”. (QS. An-Nisaa: 9)

As the Quran said in Surah An-Nur verse 9, it said that Moslem parents could not leave behind a weak family. It means that, in this era, where there are many researchers found many innovations in science and technology, Moslem parents must care about this matter. The growth of technology become bigger and higher from year to year. The science and technology are touching the sky now, so as Moslem parents, they must prepare their children to face this real future that the children will face in their future life. The Moslem parents must educate the children how to be a good *Khalifah* in this world as *Abdillah*; worshipping to Allah, and *Khalifatullah*; managing the world well, on the earth. As the Quran said in Surah Al-Baqarah verse 30 as follows;

وَإِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ إِنِّي جَاعِلٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً قَالُوا أَتَجْعَلُ فِيهَا مَنْ يُفْسِدُ فِيهَا وَيَسْفِكُ الدِّمَاءَ وَنَحْنُ نُسَبِّحُ بِحَمْدِكَ وَنُقَدِّسُ لَكَ قَالَ إِنِّي أَعْلَمُ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ

“And when thy Lord said unto the angels: Lo! I am about to place a viceroy in the earth, they said: Wilt thou place therein one who will do harm therein and will shed blood, while we, we hymn Thy praise and sanctify Thee? He said: Surely I know that which ye know not”. (QS. Al-Baqarah: 30)

This verse explains that Allah SWT created human as *Khalifah* on the earth. It means that Allah SWT gives human a duty to manage the world well. Parents must consider that their children will be a *Khalifah* for themselves in the future and their children will have a duty given by Allah SWT. The duty will fully complete their life as Allah SWT's creation to fulfil human's life as *Khalifah* on the earth. So, the parents must prepare the children with knowledge

spiritually, emotionally and intellectually to prepare their life in this world and the eternal life in the afterlife. Then the smart parents must have plan to give their children the best education since their children were born or even before they were born when they were in the mother pregnancy.

Teaching English for Kids

English as a second language acquisition means that English is the second language learned by Indonesian people. Indonesian people speak the mother tongue in their first time. Then, Indonesian people learn *Bahasa* as the national language to integrate many languages from the mother tongue because Indonesia has many tribes with their own mother tongues. So, it will be difficult to communicate by gathering mother tongue languages. Then, Indonesia language or *Bahasa* is the national language to connect the communication for all tribes in Indonesian archipelago.

Because Indonesia is a big country with many tribes and it is located between two continents, Asia and Australia continents and between two oceans, Pacific and Indian ocean. This strategic position of Indonesia made Indonesia become international trade traffic from many countries in the world since in the past time. Now, Indonesia faces Asian Economic Community (AEC), it means that Indonesia opens the trade area from many countries entering Indonesian trading area. English as an international language is the connector in communication between those countries. In science and technology, English is the common language in sharing new innovations, important discoveries, running computer, software, setting, games programs, etc. It means that Indonesian people must acquire English as international language to communicate with other people from many countries and to aware the increasing of science and technology written with English language. So, it is very important to start learning English as soon as possible since the childhood age.

Learning English can be started since early childhood age. It begins from the family. There is a father, a mother and children in the family. Before children go to pre- or elementary school, children will spend a lot of time at home. The children mostly interact with their parents especially the mother because generally the father is working outside but there is a mother who is also working outside. In Islam, the mother can help the father working outside by the father's permission. There will be an important rule from the parents in helping the children studying English at home. The rules must be obeyed by the parents and children. The rules can be kind of role plays. The parents as the teachers and the children as the students. The parents as the English teacher even the parents are not the English teacher.

Discussing about the parents as the English teacher at home, the parents should develop themselves by increasing their knowledge in English especially English vocabulary and simple daily conversation. It does not matter whether the parents are bad or good in English. The most important is the quality time in studying and learning English with their children, so the parents can study and learn together with their children.

In studying and learning English, the parents can use English media such as English story book, songs, pictures, and games. The activities can be carried out by reading, singing, guessing pictures, and running games. The passive and active skills of the children will be developed by listening and imitating the correct pronunciation. So, the parents must prepare themselves by acquiring the simple English vocabulary and correct pronunciation of English first, then the parents will teach their children while playing and doing daily activities as the children interest and the parents must not push the children to acquire English at once because the children will feel under pressured and unhappy. It is dangerous in influencing the children motivation in studying and learning English in the future.

Home as The First School Environment for Kids

Managing interaction between parents and children at home is very important because mostly the children spend a lot of time at home. Scheduling the children's activities can make a good habituation for the children. Children mostly spend their time with playing and sleeping. In the golden age, the activities for the children are running fast. They can sleep more than three times a day and they always play in their waking time. Parents can make a daily schedule for the children start from waking up until sleeping at night. Many activities can be carried out in this sequence time such as reading a story book, drawing a picture, coloring, singing, dancing, listening music, watching TV, playing games, or guessing vocabulary at home⁷.

In carrying those activities, parents should prepare media to create a conducive learning environment at home. In creating English learning environment, the parents create English environment. Home is the English environment for the children. The parents can prepare English book stories, toys, drawing book, coloring book, English song, television, playing kits, and English children dictionaries. Furthermore, the parents can speak using English language and do not speak in *Bahasa* to make the children familiar with English language.

The rules as the smart parents in sending their children to be a good person whose character and skills are good in the future is the main purpose of every parents. Good or bad the

⁷ Bakhsh, S. A. (2016). Using Games as a Tool in Teaching Vocabulary to Young Learners. *English Language Teaching*. <https://doi.org/10.5539/elt.v9n7p120>.

children depend on the parent's guidance because every babies born depend on their parent's decision. A baby likes a blank paper as Quran said in An-Nahl verse 78 as follows;

وَاللَّهُ أَخْرَجَكُمْ مِنْ بُطُونِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ شَيْئًا وَجَعَلَ لَكُمُ السَّمْعَ وَالْأَبْصَارَ وَالْأَفْئِدَةَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ

“And Allah brought you forth from the wombs of your mothers knowing nothing, and gave you hearing and sight and hearts that haply ye might give thanks”. (QS. An-Nahl: 78)

This verse explains that actually human being created by Allah SWT without having any knowledge in a *Fitrab* condition. Human being did not have any knowledge before they were born means that the knowledge is acquired by the human being's effort. It is shown in this verse. This verse shown that Allah SWT brought the human being from the mother's womb without knowing anything and to get knowledge, human being must do some efforts to get it by using human's brain given by Allah SWT. It also explained by *Hadis* from Prophet Muhammad SAW narrated by Bukhari-Muslim as follows;

كُلُّ مَوْلُودٍ يُوَلَّدُ عَلَى الْفِطْرَةِ ، فَأَبَوَاهُ يُهَوِّدَانِهِ أَوْ يُنَصِّرَانِهِ

“Every human being were born, they are born in a state of nature. It was his parents who made him Jewish or Christian (narrated by Bukhari-Muslim)”

From those explanation, it can be concluded that the human beings are born without any knowledge and human being must do some efforts to get the knowledge for their life. Knowledge for their future life because they will face many problems to be solved in their life. Knowing this statement, the parents must aware that the parents must help their children by giving many education experiences to avoid leaving the children in the weaknesses. It explained that education can be started as early as possible since the mother is pregnant and the education for the baby can be started in the mother's pregnancy. If the parents want to have their children become a *Hafidz/Hafidzah*, the parents will play Quran reading as many as possible in the pregnancy time, listening the Quran, reading Quran and a few years later the parents will send them to *Tahfidz* program or house.

English language learning seems like learning by doing. It means that if the parents want to have their children can memorize English language, the parents can also do some activities like play English song, English stories and English children movies to be the children's media in learning English. The parents must create a conducive environment to make their children learn and study English easily.

Mother as The First Teacher for Her Kids

Family is the first school for the children and a mother is the first teacher. This statement supported by the proverb as follows;

الأم مدرسة الأولى إذا أعدتها أعدت شعبا طيبا

“A mother is the primary school (for children), if you prepare it well, you have built the best generation”

This proverb shows that the power of mother in building the best generation to give the best contribution to the nation because the mother is the primary school even the mother is not a teacher who is teaching in a school building, using a white board or an in-focus, and without having lesson plan as teacher’s document before teaching the class. The mother not only teaches but also educates their children and direct them to be a good person in the future. In Islam, the mother teaches and educates them by always having a good character such as doing goodness, helping others, thanking and praying to Allah SWT, etc. Every mother has a strong connection with their children, it is because the person who knowing well about the children is a mother. The mother knows well the children since the children are born yet when the children are still in the mother’s womb.

In doing the duty as a mother, she must give the best service in caring their children. It almost twenty-four hour’s job. In serving their children, the mother gives her strength patiently. Her love, care and sincere are her strength without hoping any repayment from the children.

A mother will do the best for the children. In preparing them as a good person in the future, the mother must be as the first school to the children in teaching and educating religious teaching, science and technology. As a Moslem, a mother must teach and educate the children about Islam religion and apply in the daily life such as praying five times a day, reading Quran, giving *Sadaqah*, helping others, respecting others, loving family, having polite manner, etc. To prepare them as a good person for their future is not only preparing them spiritually and also intellegently by teaching and educating the children with science and technology, in this case, education in formal and non-formal education.

In Indonesia, children study in the formal school usually at the age of five years old. Before five years old, the children study at home. But now, there is a preschool institution. The children whose age before five years old can study in this school at the age of three or four but it is not many children takes this school. It depends on the parents. Even the parents send the children to study at school but the most of the children’s time is spent at home especially for the children whose age before five years old. In this case, the parents especially a mother must take a role to manage the children’s time by giving them education at home.

Educating the children at home is not easy because it must be consistent and based on the children's interest. The mother as a teacher has a duty to direct the children to recognize their talent. The mother must prepare them by basic education for the children, that is the communication. Linguistic quotient must be built to direct the children in having a good communication linguistically and confidently. At home the children are familiar with the mother tongue because their parents always speak mother tongue for the first time or the children can listen from other families and neighbors when they have communication. So, the linguistic quotient must be developed by the children at the first five years old in their life.

Languages that the children acquire can be at least three languages such as a mother tongue, Bahasa as the first language, and English as the second language acquisition. In a Moslem family, the children also familiarized with Arabic language through reading Quran. In studying and learning English language, the parents can educate the children by giving learning environment with preparing everything related to English language such as English dictionary, story books, magazines, songs, movies, pictures, toys, etc. the parents especially the mother is the teacher to guide the children studying and learning English. Mother must make a schedule to manage the children's activities variously. The activities cannot be homogeneous activities but it must be heterogeneous activities, so the children will study English unconsciously.

The mother must give many various kinds of activities in studying and learning English such as reading English book story, watching English movies, singing a song together, playing guessing English flashcard, telling an English stories, etc.

How to Teach English for Kids at Home

Many various ways can be applied by the parents to teach English for their children. The activities can be carried out in reading English book story, watching English movies, singing a song together, playing guessing English flashcard or pictures, and telling an English stories⁸. To make the conducive environment to study and learn English at home, the parents prepare kinds of English media such as English book stories, English children movies, English children songs, English flashcards or pictures, English Digital stories in CDs, etc. All households at home can also become English vocabularies media to be studied and learned by the children.

The parents can add more English media in teaching the children such as the parents use English conversation for home's daily communication even the parents cannot speak English fluently. It does not matter when the parents use a simple and short English conversation at home to acknowledge the children about a simple and short English conversation such as

⁸ Nunan, D. (2016). Teaching English to young learners. In *Handbook of Research in Second Language Teaching and Learning*. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315716893>.

greeting, asking children's favorite food/drink, yes/no question, asking about the children's toys, imperative sentences, asking the children's daily activities, etc. The parents can encourage them to speak what they want to speak but sometimes at the first time the children know the meaning of the parent's sentences or questions but they do not know yet how to respond the sentences or questions. It does not matter because if the parents do speaking English rapidly sooner or later the children will be familiar and respond the parent's sentences or questions. The most important is the frequency of speaking English between parents and the children, when the children practice regularly, they will acquire English speaking quickly.

Sometimes teaching English for kids at home is easy but also sometimes it is not easy. It is because the children focus are only a few minutes and most of their time is for playing and sleeping. Children need playing because the children's nature is playing. Children need sleeping because they need to sleep at least 8-12 hours a day to give their body resting time in building their growth physically. The parents especially the mother who have much time to accompany their children at home rather than the father, needs to make a particular schedule since the children waking up until sleeping at night. The schedule must be habited to the children as the mother's guidance.

There are a few ways to teach English to the children. First, it is reading an English book stories. In the Western countries, reading the story books is a habit or a quality time between parents and children after the parents did whole day working outside. In Indonesia, some parents might be do reading the story books before sleeping at night. In this activity, parents will read the story books while the children are listening their parents reading the story books or it can be carried out by reading the story books together but the story books must be contained of colorful pictures and story books. Children at the age of 3 years old like to see colorful pictures and story books. The children mostly focus on the colorful pictures in the story books while they are listening the parent's voice in reading the story books⁹. The children will synchronize what they see in the pictures with what they listen from their parents. Actually vocabulary is also become a problem to the children but it is not the major problem because the children psychologically can imagine the story they see and listen. To see whether the children can understand the story by combining pictures they see and mother's voice they listen, the mother can ask the children to retell the story using the mother tongue or *Bahasa*. So, the mother will know whether the children can get the point of the stories or not. Then, the mother can discuss

⁹ Cheng, K. H., & Tsai, C. C. (2014). Children and parents' reading of an augmented reality picture book: Analyses of behavioral patterns and cognitive attainment. *Computers and Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compedu.2013.12.003>.

the moral values given by the stories and the mother can relate the story with the Islamic values related to the stories.

Second, it is watching English children movies. Movie is kind of attractive media for children because it involves audio-visual media¹⁰. Children like to watch movies. The mother must choose the proper movies for their children. The movies must be contained of good values for children and the mother must protect the children from violence and pornography movies. The movie subtitles must be set in English language to acknowledge the children's vocabularies and understanding the movie's story. Nowadays, many movies of 3-D animation are liked by the children because it is more interesting and lively. It can start from Disney's movies, cartoon movies, short movies animation, etc. the mother as the teacher at home must be smart in choosing the movies channel for their children and the most important the mother must accompany the children to watch the movies to explain or to discuss about the actions in the movies. By accompanying the children, the mother can answer any questions when the children ask some questions about the movies being watched. The frequency of this activity, watching children movies together, must be scheduled well by the mother. It must be suited with the proper time for the children. It can be scheduled in the morning or in a conditional time.

Third, it is singing an English children songs. Children likes to sing a song because they feel happy when they sing a song. The rhythm of the song can make the children's brain calm and it can build the children's emotional to be a calm person in the future¹¹. The mother as the teacher at home must be smart in choosing the best English children song for their children. In choosing the English children song, the mother must be aware the content of the song. Many children like singing an adult song unconsciously. It is because their environment; family and neighbor. If their family likes to play an adult song when their children are active playing or doing something, the children will unconsciously listen the song even the children do not memorize the song, sooner they memorize the song. It is happened because the songs are memorized unconsciously in their brain through their ears. So, the parent must be careful when playing adult songs because the songs can influence their mind by building the curiosity about the content of the song. So, as the smart parent and teacher at home, the mother must be selected carefully the best English song for their children such as the song must be contained of good values and in line with the English lesson to acquire vocabularies from the song.

¹⁰ International, B. (2012). Learning English with Movies. *Textbook*.

¹¹ Coyle, Y., & Gómez Gracia, R. (2014). Using songs to enhance L2 vocabulary acquisition in preschool children. *ELT Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/elt/ccu015>.

Fourth, it is coloring English vocabulary pictures. Children like to coloring and drawing because they can explore their imagination freely¹². They can draw what they want to draw even they only draw a line. Remembering the childhood age, sometimes parents are angry when their children draw something on the wall. The parents should not be angry because the drawing showed that their children actually have many imaginations that should be explored. The children need to explore their imagination on something¹³.

As the smart parent, the mother must facilitate the children with a drawing book, a whiteboard, or a digital tablet. The mother must also accompany them to draw what theme that the children want to draw then discuss by asking the children what is the drawing in English. Before the children like to draw, sometimes the children like to color pictures. To build their imagination through the color. They can apply their feeling by drawing and coloring. It is very useful for the children to release any feeling such as happiness and sadness. The smart mother will know their children's feeling by looking and observing their drawing and coloring. Through the drawing and coloring pictures, the mother can make those pictures as the media to study and learn English together with their children.

Fifth, it is playing English vocabulary games. Playing games are part of childhood age because playing is their nature. In this era of technology, many digital media are offered become the children's games through computer games. There are always positive and negative views from technology. Many researches showed that technology is not proper media for the children if the usage is over limited. Some researchers said that the children must not play online games more than four to five hours a day. It is because the more time they play, the more time they will lose other time to do useful things in their life such as studying lesson, playing with friends, communicating with the families, doing sports, doing other activities that makes them interested¹⁴. Manual games are recommended for the children because while they playing they can interact with the mother and their friends. The role of mother in this case is accompanying their children to play whether digital or manual games that their children played. Many vocabularies games are offered, mother can join the children activities by studying English together through the games and discussing proper games with their children. The mother is also can make the activities in various ways by giving an option. The option is playing games manually like guessing vocabularies through flash cards, hide and seeks, playing supermarket

¹² Kazdin, A. E. (2003). Psychotherapy for Children and Adolescents. *Annual Review of Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.psych.54.101601.145105>.

¹³ Karimkhanlooei, G., & Seifiniya, H. (2015). Teaching Alphabet, Reading and Writing for Kids between 3-6 Years Old as a Second Language. *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2015.06.090>.

¹⁴ Grüsser, S. M., Thalemann, R., & Griffiths, M. D. (2007). Excessive computer game playing: Evidence for addiction and aggression? *Cyberpsychology and Behavior*. <https://doi.org/10.1089/cpb.2006.9956>.

sweep, collecting things, etc. in doing these activities, the mother gives a list of things then the mother asks the children to find the things written on the list.

Sixth, it is playing a role play¹⁵. Children like playing their toys and dolls. Boys like to play their cars and girls like to play their dolls. They like to give their toys or their dolls a character. The toys and dolls have a name. The children give a name to their toys or dolls. In this moment, as a smart mother, mother must use this opportunity to build the children's simple dialog using their toys and dolls. The children will give a name and a character to their toys or dolls and the children start making some dialog. The mother can join this activity with their children. The mother can play as other toy's character in their children's story using their toys or dolls. When their children are playing their toys and dolls, the mother directs their children to use English. In this activity, the mother is required to acquire simple English conversation or daily conversation.

CONCLUSION

Parenting is the parent's activity to guide and care their children in everyday life. The parents can direct their children as they wish, but the parents must know about their children characteristic. In knowing the children characteristics, parents can be involved themselves entering their children's world. It is playing. Children likes playing.

As smart parents, the parents are required think about the school preparation for their children in the future. In three-years old, it is the golden age for the children. Children learn and imitate everything. Their curiosity is built in this age especially mentioning things using the mother tongue, first language, or second language.

Many activities can be occurred by the smart parents in learning English at home with their children such as reading an English book stories, watching an English movies, singing an English children song, coloring English vocabulary pictures, playing English vocabulary games, and playing a role play. Prepare the English book stories, English children movies, English children songs, coloring English vocabulary pictures, and English vocabulary dictionary.

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¹⁵ Lastowka, G. (2009). Rules of play. *Games and Culture*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1555412009343573>.

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