

An Analysis of Early Childhood Creativity

Development Through Eggshell Media

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ABSTRACT

Providing stimulation according to the stages of development in early childhood is an effective approach to enhancing various aspects of growth, including creativity. Creativity can be nurtured through activities designed by teachers, such as collage-making and painting using eggshells. This study aims to analyze creativity in early childhood through collage and painting activities using eggshells at TK Islam Bani Usman Manunggal. This research employs a descriptive qualitative approach, which researchers provide observation for eight students in the class, interview one teacher to get her perspective and documentation to obtained the data. The result shows that the creativity of students appear when they explored themselves in activities using eggshells and also painting it. Therefore, the researcher hopes that the findings of this study can assist teachers in fostering creativity and fine motor skills in early childhood through painting and collage activities using eggshells.

Introduction

Early childhood is a golden period, a stage in which children experience rapid growth and development. At this age, children are highly sensitive and have great potential for learning. Early childhood refers to children aged 0–6 years. According to Augusta (in Armiah et al., 2025), the essence of early childhood is that they are unique individuals with distinct patterns of growth and development across various aspects, including religious and moral values, cognitive, motor, socio-emotional, language, and artistic skills—one of which is creativity. This stage is often referred to as the "golden age" because it is a critical period for children to develop their potential quickly and remarkably. However, each child's development is unique and varies from one individual to another.

Children's world is full of colors, imagination, and joy. During early childhood, they undergo crucial stages of creativity and skill development. Early Childhood Education (PAUD) aims to provide a strong foundation for children's religious and moral values, physical, mental, and emotional growth. One essential aspect of early childhood education is creativity development, which helps children express themselves, understand their environment, and solve various problems they encounter (Hasibuan et al., 2025).

Early childhood learning is closely related to play activities since a child's world is fundamentally a world of play. Hence, all activities

should be integrated through play (Al Ayyubi et al., 2024). Children enjoy playing because it is a fun activity for them. Engaging in enjoyable activities makes children feel comfortable and enthusiastic about participating in various tasks, such as painting, which can be a fun and rewarding experience (Ramdani et al., 2024). Ensuring a comfortable and enjoyable atmosphere is crucial for keeping children engaged and enthusiastic in these activities.

Creativity in early childhood can be defined as the ability to generate new and original ideas. Various sources indicate that creativity is a key indicator of future success. Therefore, educators and parents must create an environment that supports children's creative development. Activities such as collage-making and painting offer opportunities for children to experiment with different materials and visually express their ideas.

Engaging in painting activities allows children to experience creativity enhancement through imagination, which they express when using a paintbrush. Collage-making, or pasting, is another activity that helps develop children's fine motor skills. It is particularly engaging for children as it involves placing and sticking objects in their preferred manner. By definition, collage refers to arranging various materials on a flat surface, typically paper. The materials used for collage can include paper, fabric, textured materials, and other interesting objects, which may be two-dimensional or three-dimensional (Ridwan et al., 2019).

Fine motor skill activities can be developed through various engaging forms. Children need appropriate stimulation to enhance their fine motor abilities. Therefore, this study aims to share insights with teachers on conducting engaging activities such as creating collages from eggshells. The goal is to capture children's interest, motivating them to arrange and paste the eggshells neatly to produce attractive artwork. Utilizing eggshells helps develop children's fine motor skills by encouraging them to use their fingers to break the shells, pick up the pieces, arrange them, and paste them onto a surface. This process effectively stimulates their fine motor development.

Fine motor skill development enhances children's confidence in performing various tasks and fosters their curiosity. Fine motor skills involve movements that require the use of small muscles, necessitating precise and careful coordination. To optimize fine motor skill development, appropriate activities are required, such as collage-making. Several studies have found that collage-making is an effective learning tool as it significantly contributes to the development of children's fine motor skills (Fitri & Mayar, 2020).

One proposed method is pasting activities using eggshells as a medium. This activity not only provides children with an opportunity for creativity and self-expression but also serves as an effective stimulus for fine motor development. Using eggshells as a collage medium is an innovative approach that incorporates natural, eco-friendly materials

while fostering children's awareness of their environment (Anindhita et al., 2024).

The term "collage" originates from the French word *collage*, meaning "to glue." Collage is a creative application that combines painting techniques with the attachment of various materials. It is an art technique that involves assembling different materials to create new artwork. Collage-making serves as an effective medium for stimulating children's creativity. By experimenting with different materials, children can express themselves and explore their imagination. Additionally, this activity enhances fine motor skills and communication abilities, as children often describe their artwork to others (Hasibuan et al., 2025). Collage-making allows children to create artistic pieces, which in turn brings them joy as they appreciate the results of their efforts.

Painting is one of the simplest forms of self-expression for young children. It is a powerful means of expression, often surpassing words in the early years of a child's development. Each child has a unique way of expressing themselves, as individual differences in growth, perception, and understanding shape their artistic approach. Painting provides a sense of freedom similar to the natural urge to play. The more children engage in imaginative activities, the more they enhance their creative abilities. Painting enables children to develop their creativity by freely expressing their ideas and emotions according to

their imagination. It is one of the most effective activities for stimulating creativity in early childhood (Hardiyanti, 2020).

Painting activities serve as a fun and engaging learning experience. They offer an alternative means of developing children's interests and talents while also improving their fine motor skills through color strokes. Painting plays a vital role in early childhood, allowing children to create various types of artwork based on their developmental stage and creative potential (Hardiyanti, 2020).

Generally, young children exhibit a high level of curiosity, as this stage is marked by rapid growth in religious and moral development, physical and motor skills, emotional intelligence, and cognitive abilities. One effective way to stimulate early childhood development is through engaging and innovative educational activities. Creating an enjoyable and captivating learning atmosphere is essential, and activities such as painting and collage-making using eggshells can significantly contribute to this process.

Eggshells, or eggshell membranes, form the outer layer of an egg, serving to protect its contents from damage. Besides being used as a fertilizer ingredient, eggshells—often considered kitchen waste—can also be repurposed for craft-making (Utama et al., 2023). In this study, eggshells were used as a painting medium. According to research by Apiah & Ismet (2023), eggshells form the outermost layer of an egg, with a texture that can range from hard to soft, depending on the type of egg.

The tools and materials required for collage and painting activities include drawing paper, glue, paintbrushes, primary-colored watercolor paints (red, yellow, blue), and eggshells.

Methods

This study employs a descriptive qualitative method to describe how early childhood creativity can be enhanced through collage and painting activities using eggshell media. The descriptive qualitative method is used because it provides an in-depth depiction of the phenomena occurring in the field. As explained by Moleong (2021), qualitative research aims to deeply understand phenomena by observing participants' behaviors, experiences, and interactions in their natural context.

Qualitative research is descriptive and analytical. In qualitative research, descriptive means depicting and explaining events, phenomena, and social situations being studied. Analytical means interpreting, making sense of, and comparing the research findings. Several definitions of qualitative research exist. According to Bogdan and Taylor (as cited in Waruwu, 2023), qualitative research is defined as a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from observed individuals and behaviors. Creswell (as cited in Patonah et al., 2023) defines qualitative research as an investigative process into a social phenomenon and human issues. Qualitative research is also defined as a strategy for seeking meaning,

understanding, concepts, characteristics, symptoms, symbols, or descriptions of a phenomenon. It is focused and multimethod, natural and holistic, prioritizes quality, uses various approaches, and is presented narratively in scientific research (Sidiq & Choiri, 2019).

This study was conducted at TK Islam Bani Usman Manunggal with a research subject of eight children aged 5-6 years. The subjects were selected using purposive sampling, which involves selecting children who participate in art learning and are at an appropriate age to develop creativity through collage and painting activities.

Data collection was carried out using three main techniques: interviews, observations, and documentation. Interviews were conducted with teachers and parents to understand their views on children's creativity development and the children's responses to the eggshell media. Observations were conducted during the activities to record the children's expressions, innovations, and artworks. Documentation in the form of photos and videos was taken to support the collected data, particularly to capture the creative processes occurring during the activities.

The collected data were analyzed using data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing stages, as outlined by Syahrani (2020). In the data reduction stage, relevant information was selected for further analysis. The reduced data were then presented in the form of a narrative description that highlights key patterns in children's creative

activities. The final stage involved drawing conclusions based on the identified patterns to address the research objectives. To enhance the validity of the data, this study employs source triangulation. Source triangulation involves comparing data from interviews with teachers and parents as well as documentation of children's artwork (Hasnawati, 2019).

Results and Discussions

This study involved eight children aged 5-6 years in the observation process and included an interview with one teacher conducted at TK Islam Bani Usman Manunggal for 30 minutes. The interview results with the teacher revealed that children who were previously passive began to show confidence in expressing their ideas through this medium. Teacher (E) stated:

"This activity is very beneficial because the children appear more confident in expressing their ideas. They also learn to appreciate their friends' work."

The interview findings indicate that collage and painting activities using eggshells can enhance early childhood creativity at TK Islam Bani Usman Manunggal. The children demonstrated development in various aspects of creativity, such as imagination, problem-solving skills, and innovation in producing artwork. Additionally, this activity positively impacted the development of fine motor skills and children's self-confidence.

Besides interviews, the researcher also conducted observational documentation to capture the children's activities in the classroom. The results showed that the children exhibited high enthusiasm during the collage and painting process. In the initial stage, some children found it difficult to hold and attach the eggshell pieces. However, with support from the teacher, they gradually showed improvement in fine motor skills. The children also freely explored shapes and colors, reflecting their creativity.

In this study, the researcher directly observed the children during the painting and collage activities. During the painting activity, the children were provided only with primary colors—yellow, blue, and red—yet they took the initiative to mix the colors to create new ones. In the collage activity, the children were initially given eggshells split into two halves. However, with their thinking ability and creativity, some children crushed the eggshells into small pieces before sticking them, while others attached them first and then pressed them down to break them. This process demonstrates children's divergent thinking ability, which, according to Nur'aini et al. (2020), is a key characteristic of creativity.



Figure 1.1. (Interviewed Teacher)



Figure 1.2. (Tools and materials)



Figure 1.3. (Painting and Collages Activities)



Figure 1.5. (Result of Collage Activities)



Figure 1.6. (Result of Painting)

The documentation includes photographs: the first image (1.1) shows the interview process with a teacher at TK Islam Bani Usman Manunggal. The second image (1.2) displays the tools and materials used for the collage and painting activities, including eggshells, watercolor paints, paintbrushes, drawing paper, and glue. The third image (1.3) shows eight children engaged in painting and collage activities. The fourth and fifth images present the diverse artworks in terms of patterns, colors, and composition. For example, during the collage activity, some children crushed the eggshells into tiny fragments before sticking them, while others attached them first and then crushed

them simultaneously. In the painting activity, some children mixed primary colors to create darker shades, others mixed them to produce lighter colors, and some only used the primary colors without mixing them.

Conclusion

Based on the research conducted at TK Islam Bani Usman Manunggal, it can be concluded that collage and painting activities using eggshells significantly enhance the creativity of children aged 5-6 years. These activities enrich learning experiences, support fine motor development, boost self-confidence, and foster social-emotional skills. The use of unconventional materials encourages children to think creatively, while lessons on waste utilization instill environmental awareness. Overall, these activities are effective and essential for the holistic development of children and are expected to be integrated into daily learning.

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