

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**THE USE OF MUSIC IN THE
MALAYSIAN PRESCHOOL
CLASSROOM:
CASE STUDY OF NON-MUSIC
TEACHERS IN
A PRIVATE PRESCHOOL IN PUTRA
POINT,
NILAI, NEGERI SEMBILAN**

DIDI GLORIA MOO REJOSS

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to investigate how non-music preschool teachers use music in their classroom and to identify what types of music activities and music materials that they use in their classroom. Four out of six preschool teachers from one private preschool located in Putra Point, Nilai, Negeri Sembilan were interviewed. Interview question was developed based on the research questions. The findings revealed that music is indeed present in this preschool. The preschool teachers acknowledged using music in their classroom by conducting a music class and integrated music into other subjects, apart from that music also used during assembly time every morning. Music activities used were primarily singing and dancing, and playing music instruments. The most common music materials that were used by the preschool teachers were themed CDs and the worksheet. The findings on preschool teachers' music experiences revealed that how it influenced the participants in using music in the classroom. Also, there are difficulties in using music in the classroom, which preschool teachers are lack of confidence. The findings of this researched also revealed the background of the participants, whereby all four of the preschool teachers were untrained in music, and did not possess qualification in early childhood education. The information gained from this study will help the researcher to identify how non-music preschool teachers use music in the classroom and to understand what the teachers faced when using music in the classroom.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Early childhood education is a broad term that is used to explain any type of educational programme designed for young children. Early childhood education or commonly known as preschool is a planned educational programme for children aged three to six years old. The purpose of preschool is to prepare young children for the school years.

In Malaysia, formal early childhood education started before the age of seven and as early as 4 years old, however it is not compulsory (“Getting Pre-School Education,” n.d). Early childhood education in Malaysia is funded and delivered by several government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) (Ministry of Education, 2005). Early Childhood Care and Education, also known as ECCE in Malaysia, is divided into two age groups, which are 0-4 years old and 4-6 years old (Ministry of Education, 2005).

In Malaysia there are public and private preschools. For the public preschools, three ministries are involved and responsible for the early childhood education in the country. They are the Ministry of Education (MOE), Ministry of Rural and Regional Development, and Department of National Unity and Integration under the Prime Minister’s Department. Therefore, in Malaysia there are 3 types of public preschool which is KEMAS Preschools, Ministry of Education (MOE) Preschools, and Perpaduan Preschools. KEMAS Preschools are governed by the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development, while the Perpaduan Preschools is under the Department of National Unity and Integration. All public preschools in Malaysia are to follow the guidelines in the Standard National Preschool Curriculum, which was issued by the Ministry of Education (MOE) in 2010 (MOE, 2019).

Private preschools provide another option for parents who prefer a more exclusive educational environment and of course for those who can afford the fees. Also, why private preschools become an option is because some parents may feel that private education could do more for their children in terms of character building and knowledge. Among other reasons, parents may also feel that active promotion of