Abstract Book

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### Session 1E: Educational Policy and Planning

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Understanding of Free Play Concept and Policies in Government Preschool: A Case Study

Mohd Nazri Abdul Rahman, PhD. Komalah a/p Apu, Kristina Devi a/p Sundaram

Faculty of Education, University of Malaya, Malaysia

Abstract

This article is about free play and its policies. The concept of free play is kids deciding on what play, how to play, when to stop and attempt on something else. This research was predominantly a case study including observations and interview sessions with teachers and students. The sample consists of 4 teachers and 85 students from 4 government preschool. The purpose of this study is to know how teachers implement free play activities, issues faced by teachers during implementing free play at outdoor, how children execute the activities and follow free play concept within limited time. During free play, teacher provides material for the children to play without giving any instruction. Finding shows that children were able to explore the given material and develop unique ideas to manipulate the material and overcome the problems creatively, but unable to execute several numbers of ideas in 20 minutes. Meanwhile, teachers are not really aware on free play concept because during observation, teachers began to guide instead of become play mate and some just let children to play in playground. Furthermore, based on observation 90 percent of teachers uses this session to focus on subjects rather than free play as the time is limited for teaching. Initially, teachers are not given proper guidelines and training on how to conduct this activity. By providing proper guidance, information, training for teachers and increasing free play session in a week may enables teachers to implement this session with creatively. Besides, children could enjoy their play time which could help to enhance their development skills.

Keywords: Free Play Policies, Early Childhood Education, Creativity