

The Role and Participation of Parents in the Acquisition of Language During their Child's Education

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Abstract: *The primary source of learning in any child's life is from his or her parents, family and surroundings. A child grasps maximum at his early age, so every act of the parents and the family members stimulates his learning process. This study describes and focuses on the role of parents in building their child's personality during their early childhood which includes correct pronunciation, apt usage of sentences and social skills. The family is considered the first and the foremost source for developing a child's language skills (Linguistics)*

Keywords: Parent Interaction, Child Development, Communication Skills, Early Age

I. INTRODUCTION

There are various factors which influence a child's language development but few play a vital role such as parents/family's relationship with each other, their surrounding which involves neighboring companions and financial status. A child in his early age is at a place where he learns maximum through his auditory skills and even by imitating his elders. A healthy and a sound environment at home plays a key role in child's personality development, as he grows with the same values and attitude. Arunraj mentions that "Parents and home play a dominant role in educating a child. Parents are more accessible to the child than other members of the family. Mother is the first teacher and home is the first school and parents are first example in social behavior. They can show their love to their children by doing everything necessary to make them follow the right path." ¹ So, it can be said that family is the first school of a child before he goes for his formal education at any educational institute. Parents act as torch bearers for their children because they notice smallest of the smallest details of their parents and their family members and inculcate it in their life habits. An early age child notices how his parents address each other, how do they dress up, how do they address people of their society, pronunciation of every word, structure of the sentence, how do they manage home by keeping things at its right place are examples of certain things which a child notices in his everyday routine. It is said that a child is a true learner since the time he is in his mother's womb, so it is always suggested to read good books, try to be in an environment full of positivity and speak the best chosen vocabulary. Language is the medium through which an individual exchanges his thought process, feelings, emotions and a piece of information; so language is considered as the key foundation of a child as it helps him to jump into the deep ocean of knowledge during his school education. The first language the child learns is his mother tongue as he listens and responds to it in his entire day, but once he enters his school his teachers acquaint him with other more languages which is essential for his life survival and achievements. One language is never enough in today's competitive world, so English is that chosen language which has come up with priorities plus as a prerequisite. One needs to have an understanding and great command over this language so that one can be part of this competitive world. English is not just a prerequisite for being into this world but has also become a symbol of class and status. So, now a days it has been observed that every parent desires his child to study and be part of an educational institute where English teaching is in dominance. This has brought a massive explosion in the market of education which has resulted in increase of private schools which not only comes with English speaking environment but also with an extra co-curricular activities which earlier schools lacked. So to be part of these prestigious schools a child's parent needs to qualify certain criteria's such as their socio economic status



needs to be according to the school's requirement so that their child can participate in every activity of the school which requires certain fees, the child needs to have an understanding of the language so that he can express and participate in learning process and basic understanding of English language so that when they are taught they have a sense of understanding towards the language. So, if a child lacks these basic skills before entering into his educational institute he is bound to face numerous problems in his academic journey as he will not be able to cope up with his fellow classmates. The environment in which the child grows and learns impacts highly on the child's overall personality as speaking skills is one of the major trait of the personality. It has been observed that sometimes the parents and the family member stutters and fumbles in front of their baby to please him and even sometimes out of love but it leaves an impact on the child's articulation. So, it's highly important to work on a child's speech mechanism since the very beginning as the child learns maximum through the imitation and articulation process. Parents are the first teacher to their child as they are the people who are in constant interaction with their child, so it's important for parents to guide them with correct articulation. The first three years of the child is considered very crucial because as this is the age when his brain develops rapidly and his ability of learning increases. It is said that a parent-child interaction plays a vital role in a child's language development but a good communication skills also depends on the quality of interaction between them. Parent's plays an excellent role in accelerating a child's learning as these are the people with whom the child is most comfortable and excited too in the process of the learning. Ceka and Murati mentions that "In order to have good results at school, the parental control over the child needs to be permanent. On the other hand, in order to have success within the educational activity we are performing with the child, we need to be familiar with some rules which are connected to the children physical development and furthermore, a special focus must be put on the child's psychological development as well."² There are various ways in which parents can create teaching and learning process stimulus and uncomplicated for their children by reading loudly and expanding their vocabulary during their story telling time, while playing with them focus on their pronunciation and communication. There are various factors which restricts a child's growth and learning process which should have been in prime consideration but might have not been noticed due to various reasons.

Unawareness about the language and its alarming need.

Learning foreign language is not just a requirement but an urgent need, one needs to be updated with English as this language holds the position of global language. It is unquestionable the most spoken and most used language. As we are part of this global market one needs to have the knowledge of this language for a variety of reasons such as for educational purpose as we travel other countries for higher studies so one needs to have an understanding and mastery over the language at least for the basic survival. So, parents needs to make their children understand the requirement and the importance of the language rather the forcing on them to learn the language.

Anxiety /Consternation

It has been observed that many students have a good understanding towards this language which makes them excel in their writing skills as well but when it comes to oral communication skills they lack extreme confidence. Students expresses reluctance towards speaking this language because they are hit by anxiety. This is the place where parents and teachers plays a vital role in a child's life because this is the time when one needs to boost them and motivate them to speak again and again no matter how much time it takes for them to be perfect.

Socio Economic Background

Financial status of the parents plays an another important role in their child's education, growth and communication because school and family is the place where a child spends his maximum amount of time and even grasps maximum from them. So, students who lacks proper schooling faces intense anxiety issues when it comes to English speaking skill. It has been noticed in many schools that English has been counted as any other subject but not focuses on providing a conducive atmosphere for students to speak English with confidence.



Work Commitment

Now a days it is in common to witness that both the parent of a child is working so in this case it becomes difficult for the parents to spend the right amount of time with their child due to work commitment. So this creates a gap between them as there is no proper exchange of emotions, feelings and information. This issue can be easily witnessed in some children's behavior and personality as they display negligence of parents in their behavior.

Lack of the knowledge of the language

There are places where still parents lack the knowledge of the language which leads to the child's suffering such as the problem of right articulation, right usage of words and sentences, improper construction of sentences and inadequate vocabulary. This issue results as a problem when he steps into the world of competition.

So, unawareness of certain major factors which acts as a contribution to the learning process of the child becomes a hindrance in achieving his future goals. Parents play a great role in providing a conducive environment for their child's learning. Parents shape a base to their child's personality. A parent who is well aware of their child's studies at school can work best on their child's strengths and weakness and will be able to relate them with real life learning and situations. Parents should assist their kids in school studies, homework and projects as even children enjoy that piece of time with them simultaneously even parents can track their child's interest and activities which helps them in guiding and enlightening them. Parents need to maintain a healthy life style of their child for which one needs to motivate their kids for studies, activities, outdoor games (physical activities) and proper diet for a holistic development.

II. CONCLUSION

The best help any parent could give to their child is their support. Children expect a lot from their parents as they are the guiding lamp for them. Children consider their parents as the torch bearers of the house so they look up to them for every small things which means world to them. Every small word of praise, motivation and appreciation works intensively for students. So, parents need to dedicate time to their children irrespective of having their busy schedules. Even schools need to conduct some activities on time to time bases which includes both parents and children's involvement. Every child's development and learning process needs a constructive, energetic and a positive environment with an effective and holistic learning pedagogy.

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