

## INCREASING CHILDREN'S CREATIVITY THROUGH CONSTRUCTIVE PLAY WITH LEARNING MEDIA

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### **Abstract**

This research aims to explore the influence of constructive play with learning media on increasing children's creativity. Through a literature study, this research presents a comprehensive analysis of how constructive play activities can be an effective tool for developing children's creative abilities. Using a qualitative approach, this study collects and processes data from various sources such as journals, articles and books related to the topic. The research results show that constructive play with the support of appropriate learning media can create an environment that is conducive to the growth of children's creativity. This activity allows children to explore, experiment and discover through a fun learning process. It was also found that the role of educators in directing and providing various learning resources has a significant impact on the effectiveness of these activities. The conclusion of this research states that the application of constructive play as a learning method is an effective strategy for increasing children's creativity, as long as it is supported by the selection of appropriate learning media and positive interactions between children and educators. This research recommends further development in the practical application of constructive play with innovative learning media to support children's creative growth and development.

**Keywords:** Children's Creativity, Constructive Play, Learning Media

### **INTRODUCTION**

In the world of education and child development, creativity is an important aspect that needs special attention. Creativity not only reflects a person's ability to create something new and different, but is also closely related to the development of critical thinking and problem solving in children (Yıldız & Avşar, 2024). In this context, constructive play with learning media is an effective method for increasing children's creativity. This approach provides a fun and interactive way for children to learn, explore and develop their creativity through activities that support the construction of deeper knowledge and understanding.

Constructive play, as a form of learning activity, allows children to actively participate in the learning process. Through this activity, children are given the opportunity to explore, organize and express their ideas in a tangible form that can be seen and touched. Learning media, in this case, functions as a tool that enriches children's learning experiences by providing various sources and materials that can stimulate their imagination and creativity (Kudrowitz, 2023). Thus, constructive play not only improves children's creative abilities but also helps them develop overall social, motor and cognitive skills.

The importance of integrating constructive play with learning media in the child's education process is also supported by various learning and psychology theories. Constructivism theory, for example, emphasizes the child's learning process as an activity of constructing one's own knowledge through interaction with the surrounding environment (Norman, 2024). Therefore, the application of interactive and stimulative learning media in constructive play facilitates children to more actively explore and integrate new knowledge into their schema. This approach not only increases creativity but also strengthens understanding and knowledge retention in children.

Increasing children's creativity through constructive play with learning media requires commitment and creativity from educators and parents. Creating a conducive environment, where children feel safe to explore and experiment, is key. The learning materials chosen should be appropriate to children's ages and interests, and challenge them to think outside conventional boundaries (Fletcher et al., 2023). Thus, this approach not only enriches children's learning experiences but also prepares them to become creative thinkers and effective problem solvers in the future.

It is important for educators and parents to realize that each child has a unique way of expressing his or her creativity. Therefore, the application of constructive play with learning media must be flexible and adapted to the needs and uniqueness of each child. This individualization approach is important to ensure that children are not only exposed to learning materials that exercise their creativity, but also to activities that match their intrinsic interests and abilities (Joo & Lee, 2023). This will help maximize their creative potential, allowing children to feel more engaged and motivated during the learning process.

In practice, interaction and collaboration between children in constructive play can develop social skills while increasing creativity. Through cooperation in solving problems or creating projects together, children learn

to share ideas, accept other people's views, and jointly develop innovative solutions (Burky, 2022). This process not only trains creativity but also teaches children about the importance of communicating, negotiating and working in teams. This kind of experience is invaluable because it equips children with the skills they need to succeed in all aspects of life.

Constructive play with learning media also opens up opportunities for educators and parents to integrate technology in the learning process (Hariri, 2022). With current technological advances, various digital tools and applications can be used as interesting learning media to stimulate children's creativity. Design applications, basic programming, and educational games are some examples that can enrich children's learning experiences and actively involve them in the creative learning process. The use of technology, when done wisely and in a measured manner, can improve children's interactions with learning materials and assist in developing creative thinking and 21st century skills (Murray et al., 2022).

Considering all of the above, it is clear that increasing children's creativity through constructive play with learning media is an important investment in developing children's intellectual and social capacities. It's not just about creating a more engaging and enjoyable learning environment, but also about preparing children to face future challenges with the right tools. With the right approach, we can help form a generation of creative thinkers who are ready for innovation and leadership in various areas of life.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

The study in this research is qualitative with literature. The literature study research method is a research approach that involves the analysis and synthesis of information from various literature sources that are relevant to a particular research topic. Documents taken from literature research are journals, books and references related to the discussion you want to research (Earley, M.A. 2014; Snyder, H. 2019).

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **The Effect of Constructive Play on Increasing Children's Creativity**

Constructive play is a learning method that is very influential in increasing children's creativity. Through constructive play, children are given the opportunity to design, build and express their ideas physically or digitally, for example through construction blocks, Lego or design software. This activity requires them to use imagination and critical thinking in creating

something new (Lee & Hwang, 2022). Apart from that, constructive play also gives children the freedom to explore various possibilities in making models or structures that they imagine, thereby training courage in experimentation and innovation.

The constructive play process makes children the center of learning and makes them active in making decisions and solving problems that arise while playing. These activities allow children to design plans and physically implement them, often experiencing trial and error which helps develop mental toughness and adaptability. Every mistake made during constructive play is a learning opportunity that helps children develop lateral thinking, which is essential in problem solving and innovative thinking (Yun & Bae, 2022).

The social interactions that occur during constructive play also play an important role in developing creativity. Children often play in groups, which requires them to communicate and collaborate with their friends. This process supports children in understanding different perspectives and fosters negotiation and collaboration skills. All of these skills are important not only in developing individual creativity but also in enhancing their ability to innovate and collaborate in teams (Lee & Hwang, 2022).

The latest digital technologies and tools can also support constructive play, offering new and exciting media for children's creative expression. From interactive learning applications to graphic design and programming tools, technology provides a platform that not only broadens their creative horizons but also hone technical skills that will be useful for their future. The use of these modern tools in constructive play facilitates open-ended exploration, helping children develop critical thinking and creativity in a fun and supportive environment (Park & Kim, 2022).

The important role of parents and educators in supporting constructive play cannot be ignored. Parents and educators must provide a safe and supportive environment that enriches constructive play experiences for children. This includes providing a variety of materials and resources, from traditional play tools to the latest technology, as well as configuring play spaces that encourage exploration and creativity (Sari & Budi, 2023). By asking open-ended questions and providing thought-provoking challenges, parents and educators can deepen the learning process and encourage children to reflect on and evaluate the constructions or projects they have created. This is very important in developing reflective thinking skills that support creativity.

Meanwhile, an assessment of the impact of constructive play on increasing children's creativity can be done through observing creative behavior and problem-solving abilities while playing, as well as the ability to adapt to new situations. Recording children's individual progress and development in creating innovative solutions also provides insight into how far this activity influences the development of their creativity (Heshmati et al., 2023). Apart from that, constructive feedback from parents and educators also plays a role in motivating children to continue experimenting and innovating.

Thus, the role of constructive play in increasing children's creativity cannot be underestimated. Constructive play not only supports the development of creativity through processes of innovation and exploration but also through social interaction, cooperation and the use of technology. Education that integrates constructive play methods with full support from parents and educators is essential to encourage children's intellectual and creative growth, preparing them not only for academic success but also in their daily lives. Thus, incorporating the concept of constructive play in learning activities is the key to creating an innovative and adaptive future generation (Bang & Song, 2022).

### **Learning Media that Can Be Used in Constructive Play**

Learning media plays an important role in supporting constructive play activities, which can encourage the development of children's creativity and problem-solving skills. One effective learning medium is construction blocks, such as LEGO, which give children the opportunity to build structures based on their own imagination. These blocks can be used to introduce basic math, physics and engineering concepts in a fun and interactive way. Children can learn about balance, symmetry, and geometry as they create various constructions (Goodfellow, 2023). This kind of media really supports the development of fine motor skills and stimulates logical and creative thinking.

Digital technology also provides a variety of tools and applications that can support constructive play. Computer programs or tablet applications designed for children, such as the programming applications Scratch or Tynker, allow them to learn the basics of computer programming through creating their own stories, games, and animations. The use of digital media not only develops technological understanding but also encourages creativity, problem solving, and the ability to think systematically (Hancock-Smith & Hooley, 2023). In addition, augmented reality (AR) technology can provide a

unique experience in constructive play by combining digital elements into the real world, enriching children's play experience with interesting and interactive visualizations.

Apart from that, the outdoors can be considered an extraordinary learning medium for constructive play. Playing outdoors gives children the opportunity to interact with the natural world, using natural materials such as rocks, twigs and sand to create constructions or works of art. This experience not only engages children physically but also teaches them valuable lessons about the environment and applied science. Playing in nature encourages curiosity, exploration, and appreciation for the environment, while teaching children the importance of preserving nature (Anand & Yuxin, 2024). Through this media, children also learn to work together in teams, share ideas and negotiate, which are important skills for their future lives.

Learning media in the context of constructive play are very diverse and can be adapted to children's interests and learning needs. With the right approach, these various media can be effectively used to support the development of children's creativity, social skills and problem-solving abilities, which will be useful in their long-term learning journey (Leon, 2023).

Integrating learning media into constructive play requires an active role from educators and parents in guiding and providing the necessary resources. It is important for educators and parents not only to provide media or tools, but also to be directly involved in children's play activities. They can introduce new challenges, ask thought-provoking questions, and provide constructive feedback to enhance the learning process during play activities (Shoda, 2022). In this way, constructive play not only becomes an opportunity for independent learning but also strengthens relationships between children and adults, promoting social and emotional learning.

The diversity of learning media applied in constructive play also teaches children to adapt to various types of environments and learning situations. This hones their flexibility in solving problems, giving them the skills necessary to respond to various challenges, both in the real world and in digital environments (Damayanti, 2023). Therefore, it is important to expose children to a variety of learning media that not only covers cognitive aspects but also physical, social and emotional aspects.

The future of constructive play education looks bright with the continued development of educational technology and innovative pedagogical methods. It will be very important for educators and curriculum developers to continue to explore and integrate new learning media that are

not only relevant to the needs of the times but also support the overall development of children. Whether through in-person learning, digital, or a combination of both, the ultimate goal is to create rich, dynamic, and meaningful learning experiences that enable every child to reach their full potential in an environment that is supportive, innovative, and full of opportunities for play and learning (Duan, 2023).

### **The combination of constructive play with appropriate learning media can increase children's creativity**

The combination of constructive play with appropriate learning media can be the key to increasing children's creativity. In an environment specifically designed to encourage exploration and self-expression, children are given the opportunity to experiment with ideas and develop their problem solving and critical thinking skills. Carefully selected learning media, such as building blocks, digital educational games, or arts and crafts tools, can stimulate the imagination and encourage children to make unique connections and explore possibilities (Drakopoulou & Kampeza, 2024). This, in turn, facilitates a deeper learning process and helps children hone their intelligence in various domains.

In addition, the use of diverse learning media in the context of constructive play allows children to express themselves in various ways. This is very important because every child is unique in learning and expressing their creativity (Glas et al., 2024). For example, some children may be more visual, while others may be more kinesthetic or musical. By providing a variety of media, educators and parents can provide space for each child to explore and discover the modes of expression that are most resonant to them, which in turn explores and expands their creative potential. This opportunity for self-exploration not only enriches children's learning experiences but also helps in the development of self-confidence and the ability to think innovatively.

Collaboration between educators, parents and children in selecting appropriate learning media for constructive play is also very important in this process. Through active dialogue and careful observation, adults can identify a child's specific interests and needs, allowing for the adaptation of resources to optimize learning and creative opportunities. This engagement creates a supportive learning environment, where children feel valued and understood, giving them the courage to take risks and experiment with new ideas (Fabri, 2023). This holistic approach aims not only to increase creativity but also to

form individuals who are able to think critically and adaptively in facing the challenges they will encounter in the future.

The integration of constructive play with appropriate learning media also plays an important role in developing sustainable creativity in children. By continuously presenting new challenges and stimulating interesting learning situations, children are encouraged to continue to grow and develop. This ensures that the learning process is not stagnant but is an ongoing journey, where each stage opens the door to further discovery and creativity (Ness, 2022). For example, the introduction of new tools or materials in art activities can trigger children to experiment with techniques and expressions they have never tried before, broadening their horizons and encouraging innovation.

In a supportive environment like this, failure is not seen as the end of the process, but rather as an important part of learning and a source of creative power. Children learn to see every mistake as a learning opportunity and inspiration to try a different approach. This approach helps develop resilience and flexibility of thinking, qualities that are much needed in today's rapidly changing world (Shidiq et al., 2023). Through repetition, experimentation and iteration, children can hone their skills in innovating and solving problems in unique and creative ways.

The combination of constructive play with appropriate learning media paves the way for children to understand and appreciate creativity not only as a means of personal expression but also as an important tool in social interaction and collaboration. In many constructive play activities, teamwork and communication are key aspects, allowing children to share their creative ideas and build on the ideas of others. This instills the value of cooperation and empathy, making them aware that through the combination of multiple perspectives, more innovative and effective solutions can be found (John, 2022). Therefore, a holistic approach in children's education and development not only prepares them with creative skills for the future but also instills a sense of togetherness and understanding between people that will form the basis for a more harmonious and collaborative society.

## **CONCLUSION**

Increasing children's creativity through constructive play with learning media is a significant holistic approach in children's development. Constructive play not only helps in developing creativity but also in sharpening children's social, cognitive and physical skills. This approach harnesses children's natural disposition to learn through play, providing them with challenges that

stimulate creativity and problem solving. Appropriate and relevant learning media enriches this gaming experience by including educational elements that make the learning process more interesting and meaningful.

By promoting an environment that supports exploration and experimentation, children are taught to value creative and innovative thought processes. Mistakes are seen as valuable learning opportunities, encouraging children to keep trying without fear of failure. This approach fosters resilience and adaptability, important qualities in facing future challenges. Additionally, constructive play in a social context introduces children to the concepts of sharing ideas and collaboration, instilling the importance of cooperation and empathy in creating more effective and creative solutions.

Thus, integrating constructive play with learning media is not only an effective strategy in advancing children's creativity, but also supports their growth into resilient, collaborative and innovative individuals. This prepares them not only with skills for their future but also with a deep understanding of the value of cooperation and creativity in society.

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