

THE ROLE OF NATURE IN DEVELOPING CREATIVITY EARLY CHILDHOOD IN THE BOOK OF MY NAME BY ANNA FARIDA & FELISHIA

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Abstract. Creativity in early childhood is very important, because creativity itself is not only in art but creative thinking is more than that. The role of nature is very important because children themselves learn through their experiences and from the surrounding environment, where nature has provided various media or open containers for children to play. This research aims to describe the role of nature as a medium and learning space that is able to stimulate imagination, exploration and creative thinking skills of early childhood in the Nama Kali Story Book. The research method used is a qualitative approach with content analysis techniques on various journals and books on the role of nature can develop children's creativity skills. The results of the study show that in the book Namaku Kali, 3 main roles of nature in developing early childhood creativity are described, namely 1) using their imagination to distract themselves from negative things, 2) daring to try new things, 3) finding solutions to their problems or being flexible in thinking. The conclusion in the book NamaKu Kali the role of nature allows children to imagine, think freely, create, and learn directly, which shows that it can be an effective approach to developing their creativity as a whole.

Keywords: Nature, Early Childhood, Creativity, Children's storybooks

INTRODUCTION

Early childhood education (PAUD) is an important part of the quality of human resources in the future. Children between the ages of 0-6 years experience cognitive, social-emotional, language, motor, and moral development and at the time *Golden Age*. (Elisabeth Revika Hadrianti & Cicilia Novita Ayundasari Photo, 2025). Therefore, PAUD must not only teach basic academic skills, but also build children's creativity for their future lives. (Farikhah et al., 2022). The development of creativity from an early age is very important because it has a major impact on early childhood development in many ways (Rina Astutik, 2025).

Creativity itself is not only in art but creative thinking is more than that because it allows a person to use their imagination to divert themselves from negative things, dare to try to produce new things, find solutions to problems or be flexible in thinking. (Ayu Sri Menda BR Sitepu, 2019). Creativity must be nurtured and developed so that it can be achieved optimally. (Dr. Farida Mayar, M.Pd., 2021). Because creativity is a scientific potential that must be nurtured (Dr. Aguswan Khotibul Umam, S.Ag, MA. & Prof. Dr. Ida Umami, M.Pd., Kons, 2021).

In early childhood, creativity is certainly in a fun way or by playing and through direct interaction or direct practice because according to Vygotsky's theory the child's knowledge is built by each child from the social interaction of his environment. (Angga Saputra & Lalu Suryandi, 2021). Further strengthened by Piaget's theory that children learn with real things in the social interactions of their environment, the development of children's natural perspectives is greatly influenced by their interactions with others (Huda & Susdarwono, 2023).

Creativity does not only come from cognitive abilities, but also from direct experience, stimulating environments and the freedom to experiment. One of the big roles to foster creativity is the natural environment.

The natural environment provides many things that allow children to interact directly with others and learn to interact with the tools that nature has provided (Nopiana Nopiana, 2025). The natural environment, also called the physical environment, includes everything that is natural, such as

natural resources (water, rocks, soil, forests), animals and vegetation (fauna and flora), climate, rivers, temperature, and so on. Children are more likely to identify and learn about the natural environment because they are relatively sedentary. Children can see all the changes that occur and are experienced in their daily lives, including processes, depending on their abilities.

By studying the natural environment, it is hoped that children will better understand natural phenomena that occur in daily life, foster a love for nature since childhood, and participate in protecting and maintaining the natural environment.(Nisa`el Amala, 2021). A natural place will foster a child's intrinsic interest and allow them to learn from the wealth of knowledge that exists.(Suci Hartati, 2022).

In the story book *My Name Kali* shows a child who plays in nature which shows that nature can develop creativity early childhood shown in children can use their imagination to divert themselves from negativity, dare to try to come up with new things, find solutions to problems or be flexible in thinking. This study can enrich the insight of an educator or parent to use nature in developing children's creativity, besides that in this storybook illustration it can stimulate children to be able to follow the main character who can develop their creativity spontaneously in their play activities in nature.

The results of the book's development are supported by other studies where natural activities can develop early childhood creativity. Research Results (Putri & Mustakimah, 2025) shows that ecoprint activities from natural materials increase children's creativity in Group A of the RA PAUD AL-AZHAR Mosque Ngaliyan, Semarang City, not only their creativity but also their cognition. In research (Utomo et al., 2025) Increasing children's creativity through the development of creative media from natural materials in the learning house is said to have succeeded in increasing early childhood creativity. Training activities that encourage thinking, imagination, and innovation and provide opportunities for children to learn, solve problems, and pour ideas in a supportive environment to enhance and optimize their creative abilities. In research conducted by Ruliana, et al. also showed that the exploration of early childhood creativity develops based on nature because children are more free and happy to explore.(Ruliana Fajriati, Melati, Sailin Nikmah, & Wardani, 2025). Using picture storybooks can also provoke children to develop their creativity such as research conducted by Dian Trimasari entitled "The Role Of Teachers In Developing Creativity In Early Childhood Through Stories In Class A4 Ra Ar Raihan Kweden Trirenggo Bantul" (Dian Trimasari, 2017).

This research examines a storybook titled *Namaku Kali* which shows the role of nature in developing children's creativity in order to contribute to the development of nature-based learning in each PAUD unit and parents. This study is also expected to be a reference to find out the extent to which nature can develop early childhood creativity and to know aspects of early childhood creativity.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a qualitative research method with document analysis research techniques. Document analysis or content analysis is a systematic study of records or documents as a source of data. Content analysis or document is research that aims to collect and analyze data in documents (Dr. Yudin Citriadin, M.Pd., 2020).

Children's storybooks *Namaku Kalli* by Anna Farida & Felishia, published in 2022 by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology, being the source of research data. This study collected data by reading or recording them. Researchers can collect manuscripts to learn their meaning. (Dr. Zainuddin Iba, S.E., M.M Aditya Wardhana, 2023). The data consists of excerpts of stories that show elements of children's creativity.

The data analysis technique uses test analysis by delving into the things in the text, reducing the data and taking the data. Researchers who conduct research in the field of literature or culture can collect and analyze literary works, works of art, historical records, or cultural artifacts that can be used to explore cultural meaning and context.(Dr. Zainuddin Iba, S.E., M.M Aditya Wardhana, 2023).

Reduction analysis was carried out to select citation data that contained children's creativity, data classification was carried out to classify according to the pattern of findings, and verification was carried out to examine citations of children's creativity in accordance with early childhood theories.

RESULT AND ANALYSIS

In general, creativity is the ability to create something new by connecting some existing things and making something new. Creativity is essential for children's development because it helps them think critically, solve problems, and innovate in the future. (Soraya Hasyim Hasibuan et al., 2025). In early childhood, creativity has very important benefits, including improving problem-solving skills, adaptability, and social skills. By being creative, children can learn how to think creatively and find solutions to the various problems they face. In addition, creativity helps children become more confident and empathetic with others.

The results of the research analysis of the content of the book *Namaku Kali* contain or are included in the aspects of early childhood creativity, including imagination to divert negative things, dare to try to produce new things, and be flexible in thinking. Mentioned in the following table:

Table 1. Data in the Story

Yes	Characteristic Aspects	Data in the story
1.	Imagination Diverts Negativity	The main character falls in that instant who is initially angry, but with his imagination immediately thinks to play and stay happy
2.	Try New Things	The main character builds a dam and makes toys out of dried leaves and twigs
	Flexible in thinking	It is shown that when the dam collapsed, he immediately thought of sweeping away the leaves and twigs around him which still made him happy.

From the results of the analysis of the book's content, it is concluded that the role of nature can develop creativity in early childhood, with the nature of the main character being able to show his creativity spontaneously.

In the book *Namaku Kali*, it shows the message that every child has the opportunity to develop their creativity and be developed with an environment that supports them, the natural environment is very supportive of the development of creativity because in nature there are many tools and materials for children to play. The short story is that the main character uses nature to play who creates or develops his creativity with spots.

This research aims to describe the role of nature as a medium and learning space that is able to stimulate imagination, exploration and creative thinking skills in early childhood. The aspects of creativity contained in the book *Namaku Kali* are as follows:

1.1 Imagination Diverts Negativity

In the book *Namaku Kali*, the main character is playing around the garden and there was a time when he approached it turned out that he fell and as soon as he fell the child was angry but with his imagination he was able to divert the negative things to play and create a pleasant atmosphere. The quotes describing him are "Oh he fell" "Eh he laughed" "What's on his mind?" "Now he is stacking the stones. It looks like he made a dam". With this quote here, children think creatively who were angry but turned happy.

In the world of mental health, imagination by using all the senses through cognitive processes by changing objects, places, events or situations into fun.(Rustiawati et al., 2022). According to Panjaitan and Julita, imagination can express positive emotions and can solve simple everyday

problems of children. (Panjaitan & Julita Herawati P, 2023) This statement shows that imagination can turn the negative into the positive just like in a storybook *My Name Is Kali*, this is one aspect of creativity that develops spontaneously in the natural environment. Proven in the reading below:

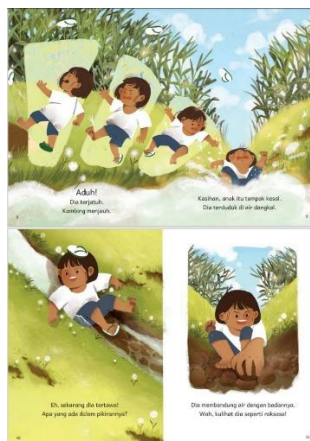


Figure 1. Imagination Diverts Negativity

1.2 Try New Things

In the book *Namaku Kali*, the main character uses small stones around the river to create a dam and takes leaves and branches around it to be used as a toy like a boat. Trying new things is one of the aspects of early childhood creativity and in the book it is nature that provides the materials and tools to create these new things. Quotes that show him "Now he is stacking the rocks" "It looks like he made a dam"

In his research entitled "The Role of Teachers in Improving Children's Ability to Solve Problems in Natural Materials Centers", Sela Romanti revealed that children have the opportunity to experiment with natural materials, which gives them the opportunity to discover knowledge and ideas about science. Expopolation makes learning meaningful for children, so that they can remember lessons and hopefully apply them in their daily lives. (Sela Romanti, 2020)

The above shows that the role of nature is very influential in developing early childhood creativity in trying new things, children will be able to try new things when the learning room is fun and provides various things for them to experiment. It is proven in the reading below:



Figure 2. Try New Things

1.3 Flexible in Thinking

In the book *Namaku Kali* shows that creativity is how a person is flexible in thinking, the quote taken is that when the dam collapses, the main character immediately thinks flexibly by taking corn

leaves and twigs around them to play as boats that are placed on the river so that the corn leaves and twigs are carried away by the river current, which causes a feeling of happiness in the main character. The quote that shows him "Oh, he took the corn leaves. The leaves are folded and joined. Be a boat without paddles. He returned to damming the water. Boats are lined up on the sand."

The aspect of creativity is very related to each other, namely with the imagination being able to try new things as well as the imagination children can think flexibly, flexibly in thinking where the child can solve his own problems and the ability to solve his own problems is something that a child must have. As Sela Romanti said in her research, the ability to solve problems is an important thing that children must have. This is because when children are doing the process of playing and learning, children will encounter small problems that need to be solved on their own. (Sela Romanti, 2020). In storybooks, it is shown that the role of nature can create a learning space for children to understand small problems and solve them on their own. Proven in the reading below:



Figure 3. Flexiblet in Thingking

CONCLUSION

The storybook *My Name Kali* shows the role of nature in allowing children to imagine, think freely, create, and learn directly, which shows that it can be an effective approach to developing their creativity as a whole. This research can enrich the insight of an educator or parent to use nature in developing children's creativity, besides that in this storybook illustration it can stimulate children to be able to follow the main character who can develop their creativity spontaneously in their play activities in nature.

Thus, we as educators can take the point, namely using nature or the role of nature to develop the creativity of our students in Early Childhood Education institutions, in order to develop early childhood creativity in a fun, spontaneous and exploratory way. So that a generation of superior children will be created because creativity itself can make a person able to complete his own problems well.

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