



## The Value of responsibility character in animal friendship storybook

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### Abstract

The value of responsibility is very important to be taught to early childhood because it will shape their character and attitude in the future. If young children lack character responsibility, they may not be able to own up to their mistakes, not apologize when they make mistakes, not take care of their own or others' mistakes, and may not enjoy assignments given to them by their parents or teachers. The purpose of this research is to identify the values of responsibility. The method used in this research was descriptive qualitative with data collection techniques, namely, reading techniques, note-taking techniques and classification techniques. From the results of research conducted by researchers, there are seven indicators that contain the value of responsibility, namely: (1) Admitting when making a mistake, (2) Apologizing when making a mistake, (3) Putting back the equipment/toys that have been used, (4) Keeping his own property, (5) Can keep other people's property, (6) Happy to carry out the tasks given by parents or teachers, (7) Taking care of school toys. Of the 25 subtitles, there are 17 subtitles that contain the value of responsibility with direct and indirect delivery techniques. The implications of this study suggest that it is essential to teach and instill the value of responsibility to early childhood, as it can shape their character and attitude in the future

**Keywords:** *responsibility character; character building; early childhood; storybook*

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### Introduction

Early childhood is an important milestone in a child's life, as it is during this stage that the foundation for learning and development is established, shaping their future growth and potential. (Anderson et al., 2003; Beth Bruder, 2010; Indartono, 2011). Early childhood education is very important for children as it lays the foundation for their future development and learning (Britto et al., 2017). Guidance in early childhood education is carried out to help physical and spiritual growth and development in order to have readiness to face further developmental tasks (Alwaely et al., 2021). Early childhood education has been identified as a valuable investment because of its many positive impacts on child development, academic

performance, health, future economic productivity, and reduction of social costs, as supported by previous literature (Magnuson et al., 2016). The benefits of early childhood education have been recognized by many policymakers and education experts, leading to increased attention and investment in this critical stage of development.

Early childhood education plays a key role in building the foundation for human development and lifelong learning opportunities. As a result, ensuring equitable and quality education for all children in their early years, especially for those living in the most disadvantaged conditions, is important in today's society (Black et al., 2017). The quality of early childhood education is typically defined along two main dimensions that have been consistently identified in the literature as important for promoting children's learning and development. On the one hand, the quality of pedagogical practices (such as planning and implementing learning activities and supporting children's emotional development through positive relationships) appears important for cognitive and social development. On the other hand, structural aspects (such as adult-child ratios, staff qualifications, group size and physical space characteristics) also play a role in ensuring the quality of early childhood education and care (ECEC) (Megalonidou, 2020). So an educator must be able to know and explore each character of their students because students have different characters from adults in behavior.

Character education is an ethical and moral concern that aims to instill good values in the younger generation (Mohd Yusoff, Hamzah, et al., 2022; Mohd Yusoff, Safrilsyah, et al., 2022; Sanghera, 2016; Zailani et al., 2015). Lumpkin, (2008), however, believes that teaching character involves learning to judge and instill good values that allow children to determine honesty and justice in the real world. Emphasizes that character education should be a systematically designed effort to help children understand values related to God, the environment, and society (Sukardi, 2016). Haryani et al., (2019) suggests integrating character education into the teaching and learning process by developing learning materials related to norms or values in each subject, which are linked to daily life contexts to avoid negative behavior such as cheating, bullying, fighting, and consuming prohibited items. Antika Putri et al., (2017) argue that character building is most effective at an early age since the character embedded in a child influences their future. Therefore, teachers can use suitable storybooks to shape children's character, with one of the most important values being responsibility.

Responsibility is an important character trait to cultivate from an early age. Responsibility for early childhood is not an easy matter. It takes a comfortable and safe learning environment for children as well as habituation and perseverance from parents and educators (Haryani et al., 2019). Responsibility is a trait where a person is required to bear and accept all risks for what he does (Taddeo & Blanchard, 2022). The character of responsibility in life has many benefits, including a person will be trusted, respected, and liked by others, the attitude of daring to admit mistakes (Haryani et al., 2019). This is in line with the opinion Clarke, (2010) that there are three benefits if in a person there is a good character of responsibility, namely being able to control oneself, meaning having a personal responsibility to carry out tasks as well as possible; admit mistakes and failures, namely daring to bear the risk of failure or mistakes in making decisions; and having sincerity in serving others.

The character of responsibility in early childhood is closely related to social emotional development (Dunbar et al., 2017). States that there are four main aspects in social emotional development, one of which is the aspect of developing positive habits which includes the character of responsibility. So, responsibility means a person's attitude towards the tasks assigned to him by others or the surrounding environment. In this case, instilling the character of responsibility can be done through storybooks.

Children's storybooks can be considered an important source for children to learn about various individual states such as emotions, desires, and cognition. However, individual states or characters featured in stories also vary, according to their respective cultures (Farkas et al., 2020). With picture storybooks, it can also make it easier for children to absorb what the teacher will give and can add to the child's own experience. That doing storytelling activities

and reading storybooks can develop theory of mind abilities in children aged 5-7 years (Symons et al., 2005)..

The storytelling method is a way of learning in conveying something whether it is events, knowledge, feelings, ideas or events through words, pictures, or sounds that are carried out by developing something to embellish the storyline and can entertain children (Cahyati et al., 2022; Nasheeda et al., 2019; Ramsten & Blomberg, 2019). The storytelling method is one of the things that children like is listening to stories. Through stories a teacher can apply religious values to children. The story told should be related to the child's world so that it will be more interesting for them to listen to it (Eidsvåg & Rosell, 2021). Meanwhile, (Mujahidah et al., 2021) explained that the storytelling method is a method or medium used by educators to convey or present learning materials delivered orally in the form of interesting stories to children. Furthermore, storytelling will make an impression on children. The delivery of moral messages contained in the story will more easily stick in the minds of children, because the storytelling method is considered more interesting and memorable for children (Pebriana, 2017).

Seeing how important a value that must be instilled early on to children, picture story books can be used as one of the media and have an important role to convey various messages in the formation of children's character, especially the value of responsibility, and not all books contain this value. The value of responsibility makes individuals have a sense of care for the surrounding environment, do the tasks given by others and do not ask for rewards for their own interests.

## Methodology

This study used a literature study research procedure from an early childhood story book. This research examines the value of responsibility in the story book "Animal Friendship" by Heru Kurniawan and Reni Setya Wati. The primary data source used as a reference in this study is a book by Heru Kurniawan and Reni Setya Wati entitled "Animal Friendship" published in 2019, with 102 pages and 25 subtitles. This book discusses the values of responsibility that can be conveyed to early childhood. The data collection technique in this study is a literature study technique. Literature study technique is a method of collecting data by searching through books, magazines, newspapers and other literature which aims to form a theoretical basis (Arikunto. S, 2013). The research steps using content analysis or documentation techniques are reading techniques, note-taking techniques, and classification techniques. The following is the research design as shown in Figure 1.

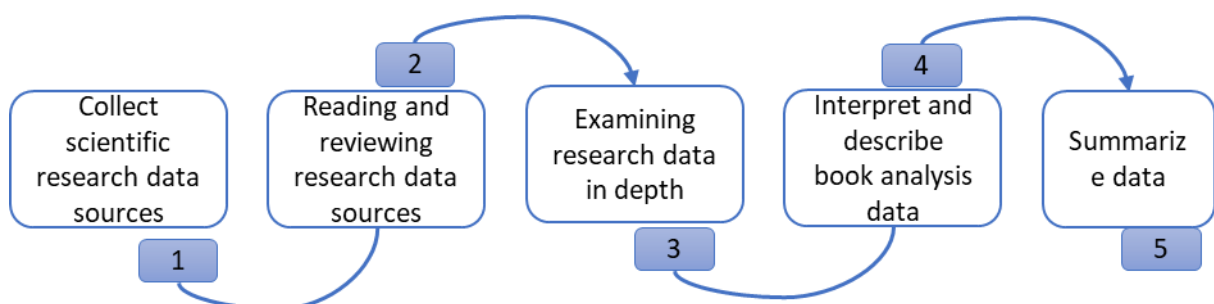


Figure 1. Research design

## Result and Discussion

The results of this research (table 1 attached) are in the form of responsibility values obtained by reading each sentence and recording sentences that contain responsibility values, then analyzing and describing the results of the research. Based on the results that researchers found in the storybook "Animal Friendship" by Heru Kurniawan and Reani Setya Wati, there are eight indicators that contain the value of responsibility. Among them: children are willing to tidy up the equipment/toys that have been used, children are willing to admit when they

make mistakes, children are willing to apologize when they make mistakes, children are able to take care of their own property, children are able to take care of other people's property, children are able to take care of shared property (for example storybooks), children take care of school toys, and children are happy to carry out tasks given by parents or teachers.

Based on the results of the analysis of the Animal Friendship storybook by Heru Kurniawan and Reni Setya Wati, in this section the discussion will be presented that there are eight indicators that contain the value of responsibility. The value of responsibility such as children apologizing for making mistakes is found in the stories "*Penyelamatan Landak*", "*Penyesalan Jangkrik*", "*Harta Karun Hutan*", "*Si Belang dan Si Putih*", "*Persahabatan Panda dan Kelinci*", and "*Tetangga yang Baik Hati*". Apologies are often considered as something taboo and are considered to only apply to the young to the older and not vice versa (Hanania, 2022; Nguyen, 2022). In essence, apologies must also be made by parents to their children when they make mistakes. So that later the child will model the same behavior if he makes a mistake then he immediately apologizes (Syme & Hagen, 2019). Apologizing can be taught to children from an early age without exception to parents and teachers. It does not mean that it is always the child who apologizes when they make a mistake, but parents and teachers must also do the same, because apologizing does not look at age (Smith et al., 2017). If the mistake happens or is done to a friend or other person, invite the child to apologize to that person. Thus, children will get used to apologizing to others when they make mistakes (Adams-Clark et al., 2021; Haslip et al., 2019).

Furthermore, the value of responsibility found in storybooks is the value of children's responsibility to admit when they make mistakes. This value is found in the stories with the titles "*Kerbau Sakit Perut*", "*Pengorbanan Tupai*", "*Pondo si Pemalas*" and "*Penyesalan Monyet*". In the story "*Pengorbanan Tupai*" there is a value of responsibility regarding children willing to admit when they make mistakes (Birhan et al., 2021; Peretti-Watel et al., 2019). In life a person does not escape mistakes, but when he is accustomed to admitting mistakes, then it will be better for him. Admitting mistakes is an attitude of responsibility carried out by anyone, in this case when children make mistakes, children dare to be frank if they make mistakes and will not repeat the mistakes they have made. This is believed to hone the personality of a child who has the nature to admit his mistakes (Peretti-Watel et al., 2019; Szczygieł, 2020).

The next value of responsibility relates to children being able to look after their own belongings and children being able to look after other people's belongings. The value is found in the stories entitled "*Induk Beber Berbagi Makanan*", "*Singa Raja Baik Hati*" and "*Sahabat Baru Beruang*". the value of responsibility in question is taking care of other people's belongings. In this case, Bear is responsible for looking after his friend. The value of responsibility like this must be taught to children from an early age, as parents or teachers we have the right to tell the child that when he borrows his friend's toy then he must take care of the toy (Lee et al., 2021; Nudin, 2020). In the story "*Induk Bebek Berbagi Makanan*" there is a value of responsibility about taking care of their own belongings (Coates & Pimlott-Wilson, 2019; Domínguez-Serrano et al., 2019). Like the Mother Duck who takes care of her children on the way to the river. Being able to take care of their own belongings can be taught to children from an early age, they must be responsible for the items they own. For example, when a child owns a car, he is responsible for keeping the car from being damaged.

From the story "*Kerja Keras Kelompok Jujur*" is a story that contains the value of responsibility about being happy to carry out the tasks given by parents or teachers. In this case, the attitude and behavior of a person to carry out his duties and obligations that he should do to himself, society, the environment (natural, social, and cultural) the country and God Almighty (Khaidir et al., 2020; Yahya & Wijoyo, 2020). Like the tasks given by the Goat to the Squirrel and Rabbit. Happy to carry out the tasks given by parents or teachers, for example the teacher gives the task to tidy up the toys that have been used by the child, therefore the child is responsible for it (Booren et al., 2012). Next is the value of responsibility for tidying up equipment or toys that have been used. In the story entitled "*Blackie Jangan Jorok*"



in the story Silver is responsible for tidying up his house. Therefore, parents or teachers can teach children how to tidy up the equipment that has been used. Children need to understand that this will ease the work of parents or teachers. Say thank you every time the child does it so that he is motivated to continue doing it. For example, when the child has played with the toy cars, the child is responsible for tidying up the equipment/toys that have been used (Bartie et al., 2016; Puroila et al., 2012).

## Conclusion

Based on the results of data analysis as described in the previous chapter, it can be concluded that there is a value of responsibility in the story book Friendship of Animals by Heru Kurniawan and Reni Setya Wati. In the storybook, there are several indicators of the value of responsibility, namely: willing to tidy up the equipment/items that have been used, admit when making a mistake, apologize when making a mistake, take care of other people's property, take care of their own property, take care of public property (storybooks), take care of school and happy to carry out the tasks given by parents or teachers. Of the 25 subtitles that contain the value of responsibility, 17 subtitles, while 8 subtitles do not contain the value of responsibility. The delivery technique in the story book Friendship of Animals by Heru Kurniawan and Reni Setya Wati is in the form of direct and indirect techniques.

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Table 1. data analysis of the character of responsibility in the book

No	Title of Story	The character value of responsibility contained
1	<i>Pengorbanan Tupai</i>	The value of responsibility is seen in the actions of squirrels who care for their friends and are responsible for helping when their friends are hungry.
2	<i>Induk Bebek Berbagi Makanan</i>	Responsibility is seen in the actions of the Mother Duck which teaches the importance of setting aside food for tomorrow and being responsible for the welfare of oneself and others.
3	<i>Penyelamatan Landak</i>	Responsibility is seen in the actions of the Hedgehog and Peacock who are responsible for their mistakes and apologize to their friends. Responsibility is also seen in the actions of Merak's friends who are responsible for helping and forgiving Merak after he apologizes for his mistakes.
4	<i>Singa Raja Baik Hati</i>	Responsibility is seen in the actions of the Lion King who is responsible for protecting the area and is happy to carry out his duties as a king to maintain the security of his area.
5	<i>Penyesalan Jangkrik</i>	The value of responsibility contained in the story of a cricket's regret is the importance of carrying out the task entrusted properly and responsibly. From the stories in the book there is a value of responsibility, namely apologizing when you make mistakes and being happy to carry out assignments given by parents or teachers.
6	<i>Pondo Si Pemalas</i>	The character value of responsibility is contained in the story "Pondo Si Lazy", Pondo wants to admit his mistakes after realizing what he did and upsetting his mother. In the story there is a responsibility, that is willing to admit when you make a mistake.
7	<i>Kerja Keras Kelompok Jujur</i>	The value of responsibility contained in the story "Honest Group Hard Work", can be seen when the Goat gives assignments to his friends in the competition to commemorate Forest Day. The story contains the value of responsibility, namely being happy to carry out tasks given by parents or teachers.
8	<i>Harta Karun Hutan</i>	The story "Harta Karun Hutan" contains a value of responsibility which teaches the importance of apologizing when you make a mistake. Rabbit and Squirrel initially clashed but finally Rabbit apologized for what he said and Squirrel forgave him. This shows a sense of responsibility to admit mistakes and take responsibility for the actions taken. In everyday life, this attitude is very important to improve relationships with others and maintain harmony among friends or colleagues.
9	<i>Kerbau Sakit Perut</i>	In the story "The Buffalo Has Stomach Pain" there is a value of responsibility which consists of several things. First, the elephant apologized after reprimanding the buffalo, which his friend didn't like. Second, Buffalo admits that he ate too much at the party, and ends up feeling a stomach ache. Third, Giraffe and Peacock take care of the sick Buffalo until it recovers. All of these things show how important the nature of responsibility is, such as admitting mistakes, apologizing, and caring for people who are sick or need help.
10	<i>Penyelamatan Lebah</i>	The story is about the Lion King who is desperate because his sick son does not recover. In this story, there is a value of responsibility, namely being happy to carry out tasks given by parents or teachers. The Lion King gives the task to all animals to make medicine in the form of a race.
11	<i>Sahabat Baru Beruang</i>	In the story about "Barubat Baru Bear" there is a bad value of responsibility, namely forgetting to clean the fish jar and leaving the fish dirty. This shows Bear's lack of responsibility towards his duty to care for his friend. As friends, we have a responsibility to safeguard our friend's trust and well-being, including taking good care of their property.
12	<i>Si Belang dan Si Putih</i>	In the cat family story, there is a strong value of responsibility. The Belang as an older brother takes good care of his younger sibling when the Mother Cat goes looking for food. When Si Belang dropped his food, he shared it with his younger sibling and didn't eat it. Then, when Si Putih was not hungry anymore, Si Belang offered his food again. The Belang's behavior shows a

No	Title of Story	The character value of responsibility contained
13	<i>Penyesalan Monyet</i>	high sense of responsibility in caring for his younger sibling and sharing food, as well as his willingness to apologize when something goes wrong. It is important to instill values like these in children from an early age so that they grow into responsible and skilled individuals in dealing with situations that may occur in their lives. In the cat family story, there is a strong value of responsibility. The Belang as an older brother takes good care of his younger sibling when the Mother Cat goes looking for food. When Si Belang dropped his food, he shared it with his younger sibling and didn't eat it. Then, when Si Putih was not hungry anymore, Si Belang offered his food again. The Belang's behavior shows a high sense of responsibility in caring for his younger sibling and sharing food, as well as his willingness to apologize when something goes wrong. It is important to instill values like these in children from an early age so that they grow into responsible and skilled individuals in dealing with situations that may occur in their lives.
14	<i>Menemukan Makanan</i>	The story tells of Black Ants, Red Ants and Big Ants dividing into groups to look for food together, due to the dry season that hit their place of residence. After a long time looking for food, finally the Black Ant found food, he called his friends to bring the food. The story teaches about the value of responsibility, happy to carry out the tasks given by parents or teachers.
15	<i>Persahabatan Panda dan Kelinci</i>	The value of responsibility contained in the story "Panda and the Rabbit's Friendship" is willing to apologize if you make a mistake and are happy to carry out the assigned task properly.
16	<i>Tetangga yang Baik Hati</i>	The value of responsibility for apologizing for mistakes is embodied in stories about monkeys, orangutans, gorillas and squirrels distributing food to their neighbours. When Squirrel is unable to give them anything, he apologizes to Monkey, Orang Utan and Gorilla.
17	<i>Blackie Jangan Jorok</i>	The value of responsibility in the story "Blackie Jangan Dirty" is the willingness to keep the house clean and not to litter, and to admit mistakes and be responsible for one's own property.