

# **The Role of Parents in Shaping Children's Positive Discipline During Online Learning at Paud Cerdas Ceria Mandailing Natal**

**Nuratikah, Rahayu Dwi Utami**

## **Abstract**

This study aims to analyze the role of parents in shaping children's positive discipline during online learning at PAUD Cerdas Ceria Mandailing Natal. The focus of the problem is on three things, namely the role of parents, obstacles and solutions. This study uses a qualitative research method with a case study approach. The research informants consisted of 15 parents, with different educational backgrounds and children aged 5-6 years. The results of the study show that the role of parents in shaping children's positive discipline in online learning is realized by; make simple rules; get used to an orderly life; and set an example. In this effort, there are obstacles, namely; limited time accompanying children, and difficulty changing children's bad habits. The solution to face these obstacles is to share time between parents in forming positive discipline for children, giving rewards to children who can implement the rules that have been made, and establishing communication with teachers so that cooperation is established in forming positive discipline for children both in the family environment and in the school environment.

**Keywords:** Parental Role, Positive Discipline, Online Learning, Early Childhood, PAUD Cerdas Ceria Mandailing Natal, Case Study

Nuratikah, Rahayu Dwi Utami

Early Childhood Islamic Education Study Program, Universitas Pembangunan Panca Budi, Indonesia

e-mail: [nuratikahprd84@gmail.com](mailto:nuratikahprd84@gmail.com)

Rahayu Dwi Utami

e-mail: [dwirahayu@dosen.pancabudi.ac.id](mailto:dwirahayu@dosen.pancabudi.ac.id)

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## Introduction

Every parent provides the best education to their child. The care that a child receives from birth to adolescence will determine his adult personality. Because character formation cannot be separated from parenting by parents (Agustia et al, 2022). Parents or mothers and fathers play an important and very influential role in the education of their children. Therefore, he imitates his mother's temperament and usually, a child loves his mother more, if his mother does her job well. Mothers are the first people to know the child, who first become his friend and the first he trusts (Harahap et al, 2023)

The development of information and communication technology has brought significant changes in the world of education, one of which is the emergence of online learning methods. Online learning provides flexibility but also demands an active role of parents in accompanying children during the learning process at home. Especially at an early age, the formation of positive discipline is important so that children can adjust to new learning patterns and developing good character (Agustina, Darmiyanti, & Riana, 2020; Haninah & Purwadi, 2021).

Discipline is a structure set by adults for a child's life that is designed to allow him to adjust to the real world happily and effectively, discipline enforced by parents and educators is the foundation for the development of children's self-discipline later (Utami, Siregar, & Suzuki, 2024). Positive discipline is an approach that prioritizes communication, compassion, and consistency in educating children without using physical punishment or excessive pressure. Through positive discipline, children are taught to understand the consequences of their actions and take responsibility independently, thus building strong character from an early age (Rohmadani et al., 2024; Susanti et al., 2022). Positive discipline helps children build strong and lasting discipline, communicate desires clearly, and set mutually agreed upon rules and boundaries. This allows children to learn to adapt easily and comply with societal norms in the future (Rezeki and Utami, 2025).

Utami, Munisa, and Harahap (2020) Children's discipline needs to be formed from an early age, so that they can face their future lives. Currently, we witness many of us both directly and through the media about acts of violence, harassment and other criminal acts. In addition, nowadays there are also many who think that children now lack discipline and cannot show good character. Parents play a role as role models as well as facilitators in creating a conducive learning environment at home, especially in online learning conditions (Emmy Solina & Aspariyana, 2021). PAUD Cerdas Ceria in Mandailing Natal is one of the institutions that implements online learning in early childhood. The role of parents is very important to maintain the consistency of children's discipline so that the learning process can run effectively. Parents need to manage their child's learning time, provide motivation, and set rules that support the formation of positive discipline during the online learning process. Based on this background, this study aims to examine the role of parents in shaping children's positive discipline during online learning at PAUD Cerdas Ceria Mandailing Natal, as well as exploring the supporting factors and obstacles faced in its implementation.

## Research Methods

This study uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive type of research. The qualitative approach was chosen because it allows researchers to deeply understand the social phenomenon that occurs, namely the role of parents in shaping children's positive discipline during online learning at PAUD Cerdas Ceria Mandailing Natal (Creswell, 2014). With this approach, the data obtained is richer and more contextual according to real conditions in the field.

The research location was purposively chosen at PAUD Cerdas Ceria located in Mandailing Natal, a place where online learning has been applied to early childhood. The

research subjects consisted of parents of students who actively accompanied the children's learning process at home. The selection of subjects uses purposive sampling techniques so that the data produced can represent positive disciplinary experiences and practices in a representative manner (Sugiyono, 2017).

Data was collected through in-depth interview, observation, and documentation techniques. In-depth interviews were conducted to explore parents' views, experiences, and strategies in implementing positive discipline in children during online learning. Observation was carried out in a participatory manner with the aim of directly observing the interaction between parents and children during the learning process at home. Documentation includes records of learning activities, discipline rules applied, and evidence of communication between parents and teachers. This data collection technique is in accordance with the principle of triangulation to increase the validity and credibility of the data (Moleong, 2017).

Data analysis was carried out in a qualitative descriptive manner with stages of collection, reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawn. This analysis process aims to find the main patterns and themes related to the role of parents in shaping children's positive discipline (Miles, Huberman, & Saldaña, 2014).

## **Results and Discussion**

### **3.1 The Role of Parents in Shaping Children's Positive Discipline**

It is very important for parents to know what role they should play to help children in terms of forming positive children's discipline itself. Forming positive discipline is very necessary in the family, where the task of parents is also to play the role of educators for their children. Parents are expected to be able to establish good communication and coordination with teachers as educators at school. Through this collaboration, parents can get various inputs related to efforts to foster children's discipline attitudes, so that the process of instilling discipline values at home can run more effectively and not become a burden. Thus, children will grow and develop into disciplined individuals as teenagers and adults, according to mutual expectations.

Based on the results of interviews with parents of students, it is known that in instilling a disciplined attitude in children in the new normal period, several steps that can be taken include: (1) making simple rules at home, (2) accustoming children to live regularly, and (3) providing good examples through daily parental behavior. The role of parents is crucial in shaping children's positive discipline because parents are the first educators in the family environment. Therefore, parents are required to make maximum efforts in forming positive discipline for children from an early age. Concrete examples that can be applied are: limiting play time after school, getting children used to reciting after Maghrib prayers, repeating lessons or doing assignments given by teachers, and getting used to sleeping no later than 21.00 WIB. In addition, children are also taught to make the bed when waking up in the morning, wash their hands before eating, and put dirty clothes in the right places.

In forming positive discipline in children, parents also need to pay attention to the influence of the environment on children's behavior. Therefore, it is important for parents to always supervise and control children's behavior in daily life. Considering that the environment has a big role in shaping children's behavior, parents should provide a strong foundation by instilling discipline values and pouring out full affection so that children are not easily influenced by the surrounding environment.

In addition, parents also need to apply the right methods and strategies in fostering children's behavior, accompanied by supervision that is educational and not restrictive. Children are still given space to express themselves, However, it is still under positive supervision from parents. With this kind of approach, parents are expected to be able to direct children's behavior in a good and positive direction, as well as help children to more easily

accept and apply discipline values in daily life.

Through family education, the role of parents is very important in shaping children's discipline attitudes. The values of discipline taught at home will be the foundation and reference for children in their daily behavior. By instilling these values consistently, parents not only become educators, but also become the main role models for their children so that moral messages from parents to children can be accepted and emulated by children.

### **3.2 Obstacles Faced In Forming Positive Discipline In Early Childhood**

Based on the results of the research conducted, it was found that several obstacles faced by parents in forming positive discipline for children during the online learning period. The first obstacle has to do with time constraints. Many parents have to work from morning to evening, even into the evening, so the time available to accompany children in the process of forming positive discipline becomes very limited and less than optimal. The second obstacle arises due to the impact of the online learning system.

Now they have to readjust to school routines, such as getting up early and getting ready to go to school. During the online learning period, not only children do school assignments, but parents also help with the work, so that the pattern of discipline becomes less formed independently in children. The third obstacle is the difficulty in changing children's habits. During the online learning period, children spend more time with their parents, so there is a tendency for parents to pamper their children more easily. This causes its own challenges when it comes to getting used to children to live a disciplined routine.

In supervising children's activities at home, parents face their own challenges. Children tend to do more activities outside the home. For example, after school, they immediately play with their friends, and when they return home, they are already tired. Habit Children who spend more time outside the home are one of the obstacles for parents in forming positive discipline in children.

### **3.1 Solutions to Obstacles to the Formation of Positive Discipline in Children**

Basically, accustoming children to discipline can start from teaching and learning activities. For example, coming to school on time, completing assignments according to schedule, and when playing, children are taught to put toys back in their place and not to be late to school. These habits aim to instill the values of discipline, honesty, and confidence in children. Based on the results of the research, one of the solutions applied by parents in forming positive discipline for children is to divide roles and time between fathers and mothers.

In addition, parents also give awards or *rewards* if the child succeeds in carrying out the simple rules that have been agreed upon at home in an orderly manner. Another solution is to establish intense communication between parents and teachers. The purpose of this communication is to create harmony in the process of fostering positive discipline for children, so that both at home and at school, children are able to comply with the applicable regulations in each environment. Concrete examples in training children to uphold positive discipline, especially in learning and appreciating others, can be done when doing assignments. If there is a child who is not able to complete the task, his friends are not allowed to mock or belittle, on the contrary, they are encouraged to help the child understand the material like others. In addition, in group activities, children are also taught to establish good cooperation. For example, in group discussions, the division of members is carried out in a balanced manner consisting of smart and disadvantaged children with the aim that they can learn to work together without discriminating between abilities or status between friends.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the description above, it can be concluded that the role of parents is very important in the family environment. In fact, parents play a dual role, namely as caregivers who are responsible for meeting the needs of children, and as educators who play a role in shaping children's character. One of the important roles of parents is to form positive discipline of children, which can be done in various ways, such as setting simple rules at home, accustoming children to an orderly life, and setting a good example in daily life. In its implementation, parents certainly face various obstacles, including limited time to accompany their children directly and challenges in changing children's bad habits into more positive ones. However, parents also have various solutions to overcome these obstacles. For example, by dividing the responsibility between fathers and mothers in instilling discipline, providing rewards for children who obey the rules, and establishing good and continuous communication with the school, especially teachers, in order to create cooperation in forming positive discipline for children both at home and at school.

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