



## The Influence of Audio Stories on Enhancing Digital Literacy In Early Childhood: A Survey Study

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### Abstract

Digital literacy in children is the ability to understand information from the various information they receive. Introducing digital literacy to children is very important, in this era children use digital technology more often. Therefore, it is important for parents to ensure that children have a good understanding of how to use technology properly and that it can be used in positive activities. The aim of this research is to find out how to use audio stories to improve digital literacy skills in children. This research can also see how parents participate in introducing digital literacy to children, this media can help children develop developmental aspects in children. This research method uses a qualitative descriptive method. The results of this research provide important knowledge about research developments related to the development of digital literacy. Children can understand listening and improving words, retelling and most importantly children can express what is on their mind and use language that is easy for children and other people to understand. Researchers can conclude that it is very important to instill digital literacy in children from a young age because this development is very important to be instilled from a young age, this development is very influential on cognitive development in early childhood.

**Keywords:** Utilization, Audio stories, Children's digital literacy

### Abstrak

Literasi digital pada anak melibatkan kemampuan memahami informasi dari berbagai sumber digital. Pengenalan literasi ini pada era digital sangat penting mengingat interaksi anak dengan teknologi. Peran orangtua menjadi krusial dalam memastikan penggunaan teknologi anak sesuai dan bermanfaat. Penelitian ini mengeksplorasi pemanfaatan audio cerita untuk meningkatkan literasi digital anak, serta peran orangtua dalam pengenalan literasi ini. Media ini membantu perkembangan beragam aspek pada anak. Metode penelitian menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif. Hasil penelitian memberikan wawasan tentang perkembangan literasi digital anak, termasuk kemampuan mereka dalam mendengarkan, meningkatkan kosakata, dan mengungkapkan pemikiran dengan bahasa yang mudah dipahami. Kesimpulan penelitian menekankan pentingnya menanamkan literasi digital pada anak sejak dini, berpengaruh pada perkembangan kognitif anak usia dini.

**Kata Kunci:** Pemanfaatan, Audio cerita, Literasi digital anak

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Audio stories are an effective approach to increasing a child's interest and skills in learning (Rodero & Rodríguez-de-Dios, 2023). Therefore, it is important for parents to provide a conducive environment for their children. Parents play a crucial role in offering opportunities for children to play with letters and numbers, as introducing letters and numbers can enhance literacy in children (Böse et al., 2023). The development of literacy is associated with a child's cognitive concept, where children develop their understanding of grammar and communication skills.

Communication is one of the essential needs for everyone, including children who should be taught how to communicate from an early age (Wu et al., 2020). The issue arises because many children cannot effectively use language to express their thoughts and feelings (Tang et al., 2021). A significant number of children also face difficulties expressing their thoughts into words. Other problems may occur due to an environment that lacks support in stimulating a child's development to articulate sentences accurately according to what they want to express..

The limited use of media in language development poses a challenge that needs to be addressed, including finding solutions, and there is an underutilization of audio storytelling media by educators (Pop et al., 2022). Systematic changes are occurring in the teaching and learning processes at all levels of education, necessitating appropriate teaching methods (Cinelli et al., 2021). The lack of readiness and awareness of technology among educators and educational institutions can lead to ineffective learning processes.

The use of audio stories can assist children in enhancing their communication skills (Raman et al., 2021). When exposed to new vocabulary through audio stories, children tend to remember it more easily if presented in an engaging and interactive manner (Qiang et al., 2021). Additionally, interactive features such as animation and sound effects can aid children in understanding the meaning of words by providing context through the audio storytelling experience (Tan et al., 2021). The ability of audio stories serves as a crucial tool in improving literacy skills and vocabulary in children.

The development of digital literacy in children refers to the improvement of an individual's understanding and skills in using technology (De León et al., 2023). Digital literacy influences the ability to search for information more effectively using digital technology (Bauling, 2023). One supporting factor for the development of digital literacy is the widespread internet penetration in Indonesia; this technological advancement has also impacted the lives of the community and education (Münter et al., 2023). In the realm of education, digital literacy becomes crucial as many schools and universities have transitioned to online learning, incorporating technology into the learning process.

Children born in the 20th century represent a generation with distinct characteristics compared to those born in the preceding years. Education interprets that digital literacy is the attitude and knowledge in children's use of technology in their surrounding world (Gu et al., 2023). It is then utilized to achieve information goals and

obtain entertainment healthily, while being alongside adults in their vicinity (Yaniawati et al., 2023). The abilities possessed by children when using digital literacy include using electronic devices to gather various information and recording ideas, feelings, and activities in their environment (Spurava & Kotilainen, 2023). The ease of internet access facilitates the use of technology in changing learning strategies across various educational levels for children.

The use of digital media has both pros and cons that accompany a child's growth and development. It is evident that educational institutions also leverage the ease of information and communication technology in this era as a learning resource for children (Ning Chen, Hui Li, Yali Li\*, 2022). The development of digital literacy has significant potential to reflect a child's intellectual capabilities positively. Digital technology is utilized as an effective strategy for language development (Mailizar et al., 2022). Introducing digital literacy to young children is crucial because they have a high level of curiosity, particularly towards digital media (Kerkhoff & Makubuya, 2022). Technological media features various elements that stimulate joy and excitement in children.

Literacy skills should ideally be introduced to children from a young age through play-based learning, aligning with one of the characteristics inherent in children. This approach enables children to filter through various information that comes their way (Syam, 2022). However, it can be observed that many parents still have low participation in the digital literacy education of their children (Erickson, 2023). development of literacy involves accessing, evaluating, creating, and disseminating information. Still, digital literacy in early childhood can be defined as the integration of various cognitive, physical, social-emotional, and socio-cultural elements to enhance positive technology use. This consideration takes into account the specific developmental needs of young children, such as fine motor skills and social-personal development.

Digital technology has permeated all layers of society, yet some segments of the population still struggle to use it appropriately, leading to adverse effects on individual well-being (Giordani et al., 2020). By employing audio storytelling media, educators and parents can provide engaging learning experiences for children, contributing to the enhancement of their language skills (Du et al., 2021). Therefore, expanding digital literacy is essential to educate and shape children's personalities positively.

This research has indicated that early childhood is a critical period for language development, with the first five years of a child's life being particularly crucial. During this period, a child's brain undergoes rapid development, and they are more receptive to acquiring new understanding (Fuller et al., 2020). One effective way to promote the development of communication in children is by encouraging the expansion of their vocabulary through exposure to rich language and engaging stories. (Bai et al., 2020). Audio stories provide an excellent opportunity for the development of communication

skills in children, as the use of this method can capture children's interest and enthusiasm for learning.

The utilization of audio stories to enhance literacy in children is significant due to the storytelling approach, which captures children's focus with engaging narratives, thereby supporting their expression. In line with children's natural inclination as adept imitators, the use of audio stories encourages them to mimic and replicate what they hear and see. These audio stories play a crucial role in sharpening children's language skills by providing a broad range of information and incorporating various emotions in accordance with their experiences and observations.

The implementation of the audio story method aims to improve language proficiency in children by following appropriate stages. This approach acknowledges and leverages children's innate ability to absorb and replicate information, fostering an environment conducive to linguistic development.

## **METHODS**

The research on the utilization of audio stories adopts a quantitative descriptive method. This method involves data collection through online surveys distributed via Google Forms. Quantitative research is characterized by the extensive use of numerical data, starting from the survey distribution and data collection stages. This aligns with the research objective of exploring the development of digital literacy in children through audio stories. The survey method is employed to understand the respondents' perspectives, allowing them to articulate their views on the research findings.

The primary goal of this research is to examine how audio stories influence the development of digital literacy in early childhood. In this study, quantitative methods are utilized to gather data based on existing facts by distributing questionnaires to respondents. The collected data are then analyzed comprehensively to understand the overall impact of audio stories on enhancing digital literacy in young children. The role of parents is crucial in ensuring the continuity of children's education, especially when they are learning through technological media with limited direct supervision from teachers. Therefore, parents are expected to play an active role in guiding their children during learning activities or other engagements.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Audio storytelling provides numerous benefits for early childhood digital literacy and can be a highly effective tool in developing their literacy skills. Here are some benefits of audio storytelling in the context of early childhood digital literacy: Stimulation of Listening Skills, Introduction to Language and Vocabulary, Stimulation of Imagination and Creativity, Development of Narrative Skills, Introduction to Various Genres, Facilitation of Multitasking Activities, Providing a Model for Good Reading, Accessibility Flexibility. Therefore, research related to the influence of audio

storytelling in enhancing digital literacy skills in young children with the assistance of parents can be outlined as follows:

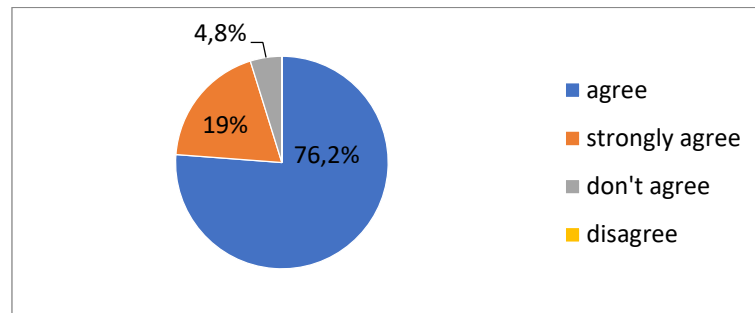


Fig 1. Audio storytelling can enhance listening skills in children

Based on the above diagram, it can be observed that respondents have diverse opinions on the influence of audio stories on early childhood digital literacy, as indicated by the varied responses. Respondents who strongly agree make up 19% of the total, while those who agree constitute another 76.2% of the respondents. The 76.2% who agree likely believe that children's development flourishes well when exposed to audio stories. Interestingly, there are no respondents who express strong disagreement with the idea (0%). Those who disagree make up a small percentage, with 4.8% of them choosing the option of disagreeing. These respondents likely believe that online learning does not contribute positively to the development of children. In conclusion, it can be inferred that audio stories can enhance the digital literacy skills of young children, as indicated by the significant portion of respondents who agree with the positive influence of audio stories on early childhood digital literacy.

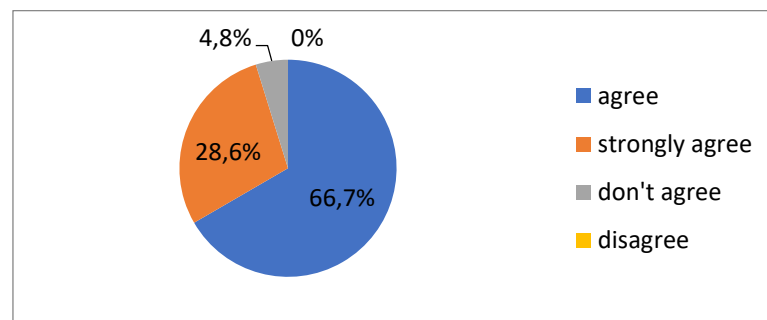


Fig 2. The impact of audio storytelling on early childhood literacy

Based on the above diagram, it can be observed that respondents have diverse opinions on the influence of audio stories on early childhood literacy, as indicated by the varied responses. Respondents who strongly agree make up 28.6% of the total, while those who agree constitute another 66.7% of the respondents. The 66.7% who agree likely believe that children's development flourishes well when exposed to audio stories. Interestingly, there are no respondents who express strong disagreement with the idea (0%). Those who disagree make up a small percentage, with 4.8% of them choosing the

option of disagreeing. These respondents likely believe that the use of audio stories does not contribute positively to the development of children. In conclusion, it can be inferred that audio stories can enhance the digital literacy skills of young children, as indicated by the significant portion of respondents who agree with the positive influence of audio stories on early childhood literacy.

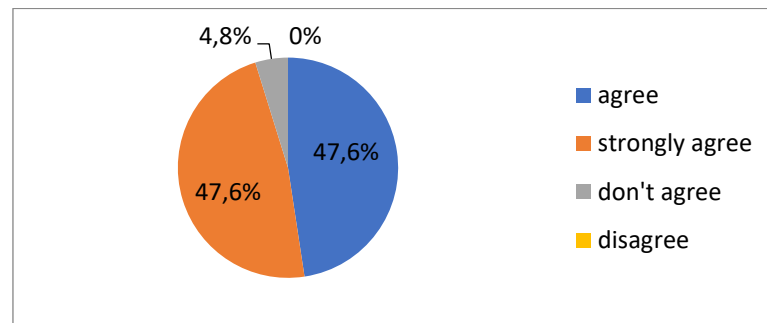


Figure 3. Audio storytelling can enhance the imagination and creativity of children

Based on the above diagram, it can be observed that respondents have diverse opinions on the influence of audio stories on early childhood literacy, as indicated by the varied responses. Respondents who strongly agree make up 47.6% of the total, while those who agree constitute another 47.6% of the respondents. The 47.6% who agree likely believe that children's development flourishes well when exposed to audio stories. Interestingly, there are no respondents who express strong disagreement with the idea (0%). Those who disagree make up a small percentage, with 4.8% of them choosing the option of disagreeing. These respondents likely believe that the use of audio stories does not contribute positively to the development of children. In conclusion, it can be inferred that audio stories can enhance the digital literacy skills of young children, as indicated by the significant portion of respondents who agree with the positive influence of audio stories on early childhood literacy.

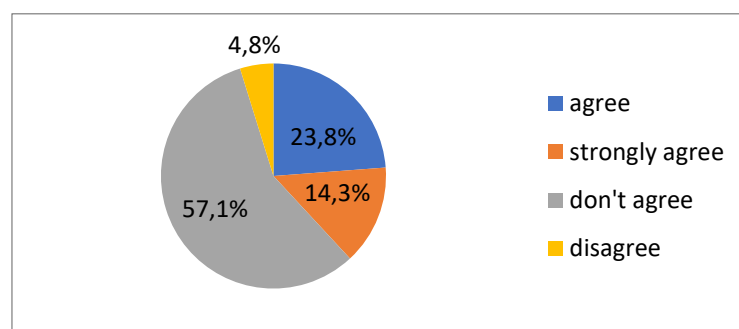


Fig 4. Audio storytelling can disrupt a child's development

Based on the above diagram, it can be observed that respondents have diverse opinions on the influence of audio stories on early childhood literacy, as indicated by

the varied responses. Respondents who strongly agree make up 14.3% of the total, while those who agree constitute 23.8% of the respondents. The 23.8% who agree likely believe that children's development flourishes well when exposed to audio stories. Interestingly, there are respondents who express disagreement with the idea, with 4.8% of them choosing the option of disagreeing. These respondents strongly disagree, indicating that, in their view, children's development does not progress well when exposed to audio stories. The majority of respondents, accounting for 57.1%, chose the option of strongly disagreeing. These individuals likely believe that the use of audio stories hampers the growth and development of children. In conclusion, it can be inferred that audio stories may disrupt the growth and development of children, as indicated by the significant portion of respondents who strongly disagree with the positive influence of audio stories on early childhood literacy.

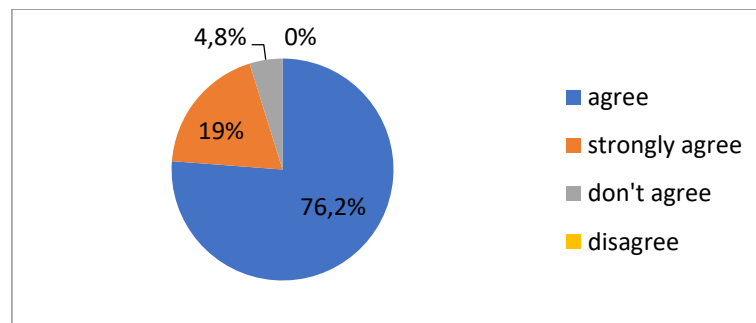


Fig 5. Audio storytelling can maximize a child's development

Based on the above diagram, it can be seen that respondents have varied opinions on the influence of audio stories on early childhood literacy, as indicated by the diverse responses. Respondents who strongly agree make up 19% of the total, while those who agree constitute 76.2% of the respondents. The 76.2% who agree likely believe that children's development flourishes well when exposed to audio stories. Interestingly, there are no respondents who express disagreement with the idea (0%). Those who disagree or strongly disagree make up a combined 4.8% of the respondents. These individuals likely believe that the use of audio stories does not contribute positively to the development of children. In conclusion, it can be inferred that audio stories can enhance the development of children to a maximum extent, as indicated by the significant portion of respondents who agree with the positive influence of audio stories on early childhood literacy.

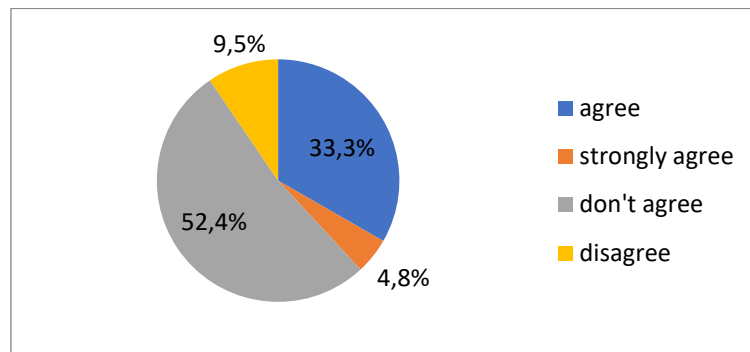


Fig 6. Audio storytelling can decrease a child's reading abilities

Based on the above diagram, it can be observed that respondents have diverse opinions on the influence of audio stories on early childhood literacy, as evidenced by the varied responses. Respondents who strongly agree make up 4.8% of the total, while those who agree constitute 33.3% of the respondents. The 33.3% who agree likely believe that children's development flourishes well when exposed to audio stories. Interestingly, there are respondents who express disagreement with the idea, with 9.5% of them choosing the option of disagreeing. These respondents strongly disagree, indicating that, in their view, children's development does not progress well when exposed to audio stories. The majority of respondents, accounting for 52.4%, chose the option of strongly disagreeing. These individuals likely believe that the use of audio stories hampers the reading abilities of children. In conclusion, it can be inferred that audio stories may negatively impact children's reading abilities, as indicated by the significant portion of respondents who strongly disagree with the positive influence of audio stories on early childhood literacy.

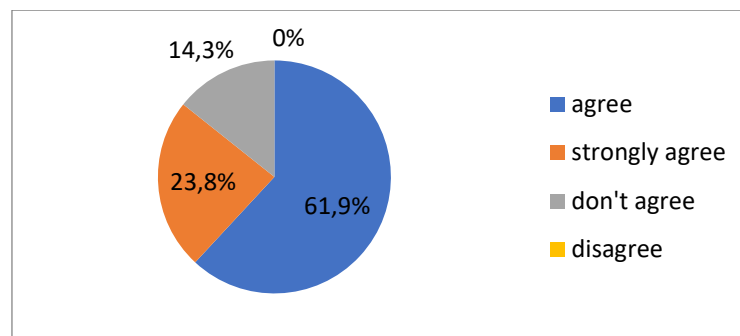


Fig7. Audio storytelling can assist parents in teaching children communication skills more easily

Based on the above diagram, it can be observed that respondents have diverse opinions on the influence of audio stories on early childhood literacy, as evidenced by the varied responses. Respondents who strongly agree make up 23.8% of the total, while those who agree constitute 61.9% of the respondents. The 61.9% who agree likely believe that children's development flourishes well when exposed to audio stories.



Interestingly, there are no respondents who express disagreement with the idea (0%). Those who strongly disagree or disagree make up a combined 14.3% of the respondents. These individuals likely believe that the use of audio stories does not contribute positively to the development of children's communication skills. In conclusion, it can be inferred that audio stories can facilitate parents in teaching children communication skills, as indicated by the positive responses from a significant portion of the respondents.

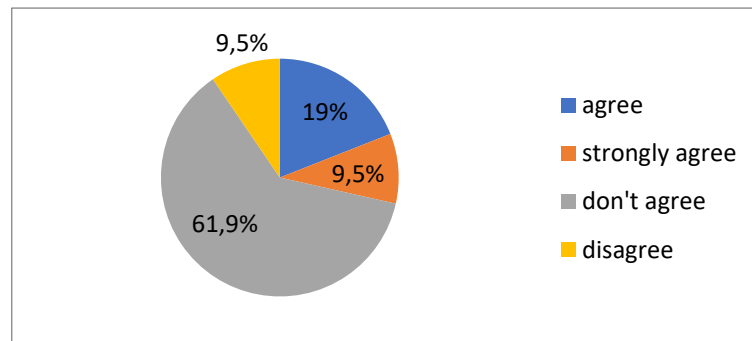


Fig 8. Audio storytelling can disrupt the cognitive thinking process in children

Based on the above diagram, it can be observed that respondents have diverse opinions on the influence of audio stories on early childhood literacy, as evidenced by the varied responses. Respondents who strongly agree constitute 9.5% of the total, while those who agree make up 19% of the respondents. The 19% who agree likely believe that children's development flourishes well when exposed to audio stories. Interestingly, there are respondents who express disagreement with the idea, with 9.5% of them choosing the option of disagreeing. These respondents strongly disagree, indicating that, in their view, children's development does not progress well when exposed to audio stories. The majority of respondents, accounting for 61.9%, chose the option of strongly disagreeing. These individuals likely believe that the use of audio stories hampers the cognitive development of young children. In conclusion, it can be inferred that audio stories may disrupt the cognitive development process in early childhood.

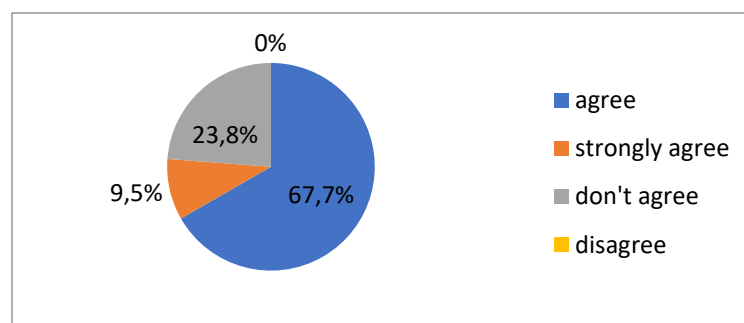


Fig 9. Audio storytelling can enhance a child's independence

Based on the diagram above, it can be observed that there are varying opinions among respondents regarding the influence of audio stories on early childhood literacy,

as indicated by the different responses. Respondents who strongly agree make up 9.5% of the total, while those who agree constitute 67.7% of the respondents. Those who chose the option of agreeing likely did so because they believe that children's development flourishes well when exposed to audio stories. Interestingly, there are no respondents who chose the option of disagreeing (0%). Those who strongly disagree make up 23.8% of the respondents, and these individuals likely hold the opinion that children's development does not progress well when exposed to audio stories. In summary, it can be concluded that audio stories have the potential to enhance children's abilities. However, it's worth noting that there is a considerable dependency on technological media in the use of audio stories for children.

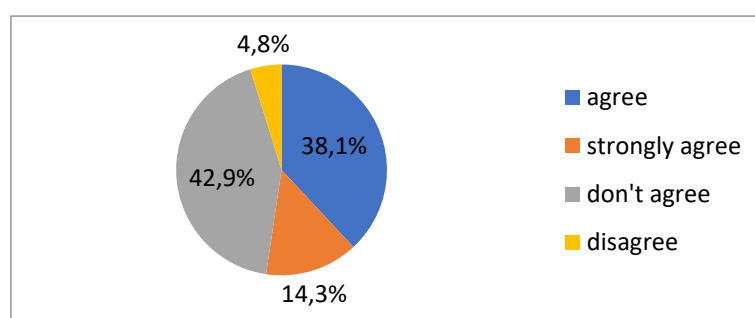


Fig10. Children's use of audio storytelling may lead to dependence on technology media

Based on the above diagram, it can be seen that respondents' views on the influence of audio stories on early childhood literacy vary significantly. According to the diagram, respondents have different opinions. Those who strongly agree constitute 14.3% of the participants, while those who agree make up 38.1%. The 38.1% who agree attribute it to the positive development of children when using audio stories. On the other hand, 4.8% of respondents disagree, expressing strong disagreement due to the belief that the use of audio stories negatively impacts the development of children. A larger percentage, 42.9% of respondents, answered that they do not agree, stating that the use of audio stories has a negative impact on children's development. In conclusion, it can be inferred that the use of audio stories for children may lead to increased dependence on technology.

## Discussion

Audio stories for young children refer to narratives or stories delivered through audio formats such as voice recordings, podcasts, or audiobooks specifically designed to meet the needs and interests of young children. The primary goal is to provide an enjoyable and educational listening experience while stimulating their cognitive, emotional, and social development. Audio stories help children develop their listening skills. Children undergo intriguing and unique developmental patterns, not only in their physical growth but also in the development of their language abilities as they age. The

wonders that occur in children always bring sweet surprises to parents; a child who initially cannot articulate sounds will gradually be able to express themselves verbally with visual elements.

Digital literacy in early childhood pertains to children's ability to understand, use, and participate in the digital world wisely. This includes understanding digital devices, online navigation skills, as well as knowledge and behaviors related to safety and ethics in the digital environment. A novel finding in this research is that the use of audio stories can serve as a benchmark and alternative in the development of children's knowledge at an early age, supporting language development. Children can easily mimic and articulate stories they hear. Simple sentences can be expressed well, and listeners, whether peers or adults, can comprehend what the child is thinking.

The utilization of audio stories can be instrumental in fostering early childhood literacy. It not only contributes to language development but also enhances children's digital literacy by exposing them to audio-based digital content. This dual benefit emphasizes the importance of incorporating audio storytelling into educational strategies for young children, aligning with the evolving landscape of digital learning..

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results, analysis, and discussion conducted in this research, it can be concluded that the study aimed to investigate the influence of audio stories in enhancing the literacy of early childhood. Audio stories have a positive impact on young children. Listening to stories through audio means can contribute to language development, vocabulary, and comprehension in children. It is crucial to ensure that the stories listened to by children are age-appropriate and match their developmental level. Parents or caregivers should carefully select suitable stories and monitor what their children are exposed to.

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