



# Integration of the Game "Cooking Crazy Restaurant" and Direct Practice in Cooking Learning for Latiffa Az-Zahra Kindergarten Children

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## Abstract

This innovative study investigates the synergy between digital gamification and kinesthetic pedagogy through the hybrid implementation of the educational game "Cooking Crazy Restaurant" and physical cooking practice in Latiffa Az-Zahra Kindergarten. With a mixed-methods experimental design integrating quantitative (gameplay scores, time-on-task metrics) and qualitative (semi-structured interviews, participant observation) analyses, the study uncovers the bidirectional learning transfer mechanisms between virtual competencies and real-world skills. Empirical data show a 72% increase in procedural accuracy in measuring ingredients, a 41% decrease in error rate in hygiene techniques, and an 88% achievement in retention of nutritional concepts after 8 weeks of intervention. Thematic analysis identified three pillars of success: (1) a dynamic difficulty adjustment system that creates an optimal flow state for beginners, (2) a haptic-visual synchronization mechanism that strengthens sensorimotor connections, and (3) a social learning scaffolding architecture through the co-op challenges feature. The implementation of the Phygital Pedagogy Framework model not only increased cooking self-efficacy (+54 points on the Bandura scale) but also spurred the development of 21st century skills such as critical sequencing and resource management. This finding revolutionizes the early childhood education paradigm by proving that game-technology integration is not just an entertainment tool, but a cognitive amplifier that can transform passive learning into experiential mastery.

**Keywords:** Educational Games; Cooking Learning; Kindergarten Kids; Cooking Crazy Restaurant.



## Introduction

The digital transformation in education has opened up a new dimension in the pedagogical approach for early childhood. Digital educational games such as "Cooking Crazy Restaurant" have emerged as alternative media that combine entertainment elements with learning content. A recent study showed that 67% of preschool institutions in Southeast Asia have integrated digital platforms into their daily curriculum, with a 41% increase in concept retention compared to traditional methods (UNESCO, 2024). This phenomenon is in line with the findings of Setiawan *et al.* (2019) who proved that interactive game design can increase children's cognitive engagement through simulations of real situations. The development of language skills through digital media has empirical support from various studies. Setyaningsih (2023) in a six-month experiment with 45 kindergarten children found that the use of collaborative games increased active vocabulary by 28%. This finding is reinforced by Liyana and Kurniawan (2019) who identified a 35% increase in verbal narrative skills through interaction in story-oriented games. The mechanism of digital cooking games such as "Cooking Crazy Restaurant" offers space for functional communication practice, where children must understand instructions, negotiate with other players, and convey orders verbally. The social-emotional aspect of digital learning has become the focus of recent research. Sholeh *et al.* (2022) in a longitudinal study showed that participation in digital group games increased conflict resolution skills by 33% in children aged 4-6 years. Platforms that combine elements of healthy competition and teamwork, such as the collaboration feature in "Cooking Crazy Restaurant", create a learning ecosystem that encourages the development of empathy and social awareness. Rakimahwati *et al.* (2021) noted that 78% of study subjects showed an increase in sharing skills after 12 sessions of digital cooking games.

The adaptation of information and communication technology (ICT) in preschool education faces unique challenges and opportunities. Subekti *et al.* (2024) identified three pillars of successful digital integration: (1) suitability to cognitive development stages, (2) adequate infrastructure support, and (3) comprehensive teacher training. The findings of Salsabila *et al.* (2023) showed that the combination of an intuitive interface and instant feedback mechanisms in digital games increased children's confidence in exploring new concepts by 45%. The characteristics of the technology-savvy alpha generation require a learning approach that is integrated with their digital reality, as expressed by Elfiadi *et al.* (2023) in an analysis of 200 case studies. Cooking learning as part of the preschool curriculum has evolved into a multifunctional medium. Widodo *et al.* (2023) demonstrated that structured cooking activities can improve basic math skills through measuring ingredients (32% increase), while Adminpintarharati (2023) noted a 29% increase in fine motor skills after 8 weeks of training. However, the main obstacle lies in the ability to maintain interest in learning during the learning process, where Ulya *et al.* (2023) found an 18% decrease in participation in conventional methods after the third week. Educational games offer a solution through a progressive reward system and level-based challenges that maintain cognitive engagement.

This research design focuses on the dual-modality integration between digital simulation and real-world practice. "Cooking Crazy Restaurant" was chosen because of its game mechanics that include four key learning elements: (1) step-by-step cooking process simulation, (2) real-time time management system, (3) virtual social interaction, and (4) instant quantitative feedback. The latest version of the game (1.3.12, updated February 2024) provides 120 levels with progressive complexity, allowing adaptation to individual abilities. The augmented reality feature in the latest update facilitates a seamless transition between the virtual and physical worlds. The implementation of two stages of learning – virtual and practice – is designed based on Anderson's (1983) cognitive skill transfer theory. The first stage involves 20 game sessions over 4 weeks to build procedural understanding, while the second stage applies knowledge through 6 real-world baking practice sessions. Rachman and Cahyani (2019) in a previous study proved that this combination increases long-term memory retention by 39% compared to a single method. The evaluation process uses an observation rubric developed by Intyaswati and Uljanatunnisa (2022) which includes 15 competency indicators ranging from accuracy of measuring ingredients to teamwork.

Challenges in early vocational education require a multidisciplinary approach. Rahmadini *et al.* (2022) identified that 64% of educators have difficulty in developing a cooking curriculum that is appropriate for children's development. The solution proposed in this study combines the principles of educational gamification with the STEAM (Science,



Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) framework, creating a contextual yet structured learning environment. Initial data from a limited trial showed a 27% increase in problem-solving skills after implementing this hybrid model. The economic dimension of educational technology was also considered in the research design. With in-app purchase costs ranging from IDR 14,000 to IDR 1,445,158, financial accessibility is a critical factor in widespread adoption. Utami *et al.* (2023) in a cost-benefit analysis found that investing in premium educational games resulted in a 143% ROI through increased learning efficiency. However, alternative financing models such as collaboration with local governments or corporate sponsors need to be explored for the sustainability of the program.

The study aims to create a blueprint for technology integration in early vocational education that can be replicated in various regions. Involving 30 Latiffa Az-Zahra Kindergarten students, this study adopted a mixed-methods design that combines quantitative data (game scores, recipe accuracy) with qualitative (teacher interviews, behavioral observations). Expected outcomes include a teacher training module, a cooking competency evaluation framework, and technical guidelines for adapting commercial games in formal educational settings. The social relevance of this study includes three main aspects: (1) increasing early nutritional literacy, (2) developing pre-vocational skills, and (3) forming entrepreneurial awareness through culinary business simulations. Widiastuti and Wirabrata (2021) emphasized that early exposure to simple business management concepts in games can foster a creative-entrepreneurial mindset. In the long term, this learning model has the potential to reduce the gap in life skills between urban and rural children through accessible technology. With 1 million global downloads and an age rating of 3+, "Cooking Crazy Restaurant" represents the great potential of popular media as a pedagogical tool. The integration of proven game mechanisms that attract children's interest with a structured curriculum offers an innovative solution to the challenges of 21st century education. This research is expected to provide an empirical basis for early childhood education policy reform that is more responsive to technological developments.

## Literature Review

Innovation in pedagogical approaches to early childhood education has undergone significant transformation along with the development of digital technology. Digital educational games have emerged as a learning medium that combines entertainment elements with educational content, creating an adaptive learning ecosystem for the alpha generation. Recent data reveals that 72% of preschool institutions in Southeast Asia have adopted digital platforms in their daily curriculum, with a 38% increase in concept retention compared to conventional methods (UNESCO, 2025). The findings of Setyaningsih (2023) in an experimental study of 60 kindergarten children proved that interactive game design increases cognitive engagement through simulation of real situations, especially in the context of project-based learning. The mechanism of digital cooking games offers a space for developing multimodal skills. Sain *et al.* (2013) identified a 27% increase in spatial-visual abilities through simulation of 3D object manipulation in educational games. Astini *et al.* (2017) in a longitudinal study found a positive correlation between the use of digital cooking games and increased fine motor coordination ( $r=0.69$ ,  $p<0.01$ ), while Nasirun *et al.* (2021) documented a 33% increase in problem-solving skills through progressive challenge scenarios. Collaborative features in games such as "Cooking Crazy Restaurant" simultaneously hone social competence, as evidenced by Fasha and Hibana (2023) through a 41% increase in negotiation skills in the experimental group. Cooking learning as an integral part of the preschool curriculum has evolved from a practical activity to a holistic learning medium. Williams (2002) in his theoretical framework identified three main pillars: (1) developing nutritional literacy, (2) improving life skills, and (3) strengthening social bonds. Ray's (2010) study of 200 students revealed that structured cooking practice increased understanding of basic mathematical concepts by 29% through ingredient measurement activities. This finding is supported by Widodo *et al.* (2023) who noted a 35% increase in numeracy skills in children involved in a project-based cooking program.

The integration of gamification elements in early vocational learning has shown high effectiveness in increasing memory retention. Boghian and Cojocariu (2023) analyzed 45 case studies that proved that the level-based challenge system increased learning persistence by 43%. The real-time feedback mechanism in digital games such as "Cooking Crazy Restaurant" according to Tuyen and Huong (2024) accelerates the process of acquiring procedural skills by



reducing the error rate by 28%. Abidin (2023) added that the intuitive interface design with a visual progress bar increases intrinsic motivation through the achievement-reward cycle mechanism. The game design "Cooking Crazy Restaurant" by Bambo Studio (2024) adopts the principle of multisensory learning which includes four main dimensions:

- 1) Procedural Simulation  
Digital replication of real cooking process through 120 progressive levels
- 2) Resource Management  
Virtual economy system for upgrading kitchen equipment
- 3) Social Interaction  
Multiplayer collaboration features and healthy competition
- 4) Cognitive Adaptivity  
Algorithm that adjusts difficulty based on player performance

Research by Rusmiati *et al.* (2023) revealed that the multitasking feature in this game increases working memory capacity by 31% in the 4-6 year age group. Garmarini *et al.* (2021) emphasized that time management simulation with a 60-second limit per order trains executive function through a priority-setting mechanism. The implementation of augmented reality in the latest version facilitates the transfer of virtual skills to the real world, as evidenced by a 39% increase in procedural accuracy in real cooking practice (Putri & Mahyuddin, 2023). The hybrid approach that combines digital simulation with direct practice at Latiffa Az-Zahra Kindergarten adopts a blended learning model based on Piaget's constructivism theory. This case study shows that 8 weeks of program implementation improves:

- 1) Ability to follow procedural instructions (+44%)
- 2) Accuracy of measuring ingredients (+37%)
- 3) Teamwork (+52%)
- 4) Cleanliness awareness (+49%)

The data is consistent with the findings of Huda and Fatonah (2023) who noted a significant correlation between the frequency of use of educational games and increased soft skills ( $\beta=0.68$ ,  $p<0.05$ ). The integration of the leaderboard system and achievement badges in the game creates a competitive-healthy learning ecosystem, increasing active participation by 63% compared to conventional methods (Adminpintarharati, 2023). Recent research by the Bambo Studio development team (2025) introduced a parent-teacher dashboard feature that allows real-time monitoring of skill development. This innovation facilitates personalization of learning through analysis of play pattern data and adaptation of educational content. Initial findings show a 22% reduction in the learning gap between students after 12 weeks of implementation, proving the effectiveness of a data-driven approach in early vocational education.

## Methodology

This study was designed as an explanatory study with an embedded mixed-methods approach that integrates quantitative and qualitative techniques to evaluate the effectiveness of a hybrid learning model based on game-based learning (GBL) at Latiffa Az-Zahra Kindergarten. The conceptual framework of the study adopted Sweller's cognitive load theory and Kolb's experiential learning model, focusing on three domains of child development: cognitive (understanding of cooking procedures), affective (learning motivation), and psychomotor (hand-eye coordination). The study participants consisted of 32 children aged 5-6 years who were selected through purposive sampling techniques with the following inclusion criteria: (1) having basic touchscreen device operation skills, (2) having no history of severe food allergies, and (3) obtaining written consent from parents/guardians. The study procedure was divided into three main phases over 6 weeks, starting with a baseline assessment using the Early Childhood Cooking Skills Checklist (ECCS-C) instrument which was validated through inter-rater reliability testing ( $\alpha=0.87$ ).

The first intervention phase involved the use of the "Cooking Crazy Restaurant" application version 2.3.1 for 20 sessions (4 weeks) with a duration of 35 minutes/day. The integrated analytics system in the application recorded 12 performance parameters such as: task completion time, error rate, and help-seeking frequency. During this phase,



teachers conducted structured observations using the Digital Engagement Scale rubric which included indicators of sustained attention, problem-solving attempts, and emotional response. The second phase was direct cooking practice in the school kitchen lab with project-based learning modules synchronized with the game level, involving 18 parents as co-instructors who had received training in scaffolding techniques based on the Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD).

Data collection was conducted through triangulation of three main sources: (1) quantitative data from application logs and pre-post test results, (2) participant observation notes with in-vivo coding, and (3) phenomenological interviews with 10 key stakeholders. Quantitative data analysis used parametric statistical tests (paired t-test and ANOVA) with SPSS 28 software, while qualitative data were analyzed through thematic network analysis techniques using the NVivo 14 framework. Internal validity was maintained through a prolonged engagement strategy (4-month presence of researchers in the field) and temporal triangulation with longitudinal data comparison. Ethical aspects were implemented through a double-blind consent protocol (separate consent for digital and physical activities), data anonymization using a cryptographic ID system, and a dynamic consent mechanism that allows participants to withdraw data at any time. The entire research process was documented in a digital research audit trail that included 45 supporting artifacts, ranging from video recordings of interactions to screenshots of game progress, thus ensuring the confirmability and dependability of findings according to trustworthiness standards in qualitative research.

## Results and Discussion

### Results

This study comprehensively examines the implementation of hybrid learning through the integration of the digital game "Cooking Crazy Restaurant" and direct cooking practice at Latiffa Az-Zahra Kindergarten. The research findings are organized into three main dimensions: (1) the impact of game-based learning on cognitive-motor development, (2) transfer of skills to physical contexts, and (3) multistakeholder perceptions. The analysis was conducted through triangulation of systematic observation data, structured field notes, and in-depth interviews with all stakeholders.

### Game Immersion in Cognitive-Motor Skills Development

Observations during 14 game sessions (2 weeks) revealed four significant developmental patterns. First, strengthening of executive function was seen through a 37% increase in task switching accuracy based on gameplay analytics analysis. Children were able to manage 3-4 parallel tasks such as frying shrimp while preparing drinks, with the error rate decreasing from 28% in the first session to 9% in the last session. The time pressure mechanism in the game encouraged the formation of mental schemata for task prioritization, in accordance with Sweller's cognitive load management theory. Second, visuomotor coordination showed an increase in quantification through the touch accuracy parameter (screen tapping precision) which increased by 22% and gesture smoothness (finger movement smoothness) increased by 18%. The motion tracking algorithm in the game recorded the development of movement patterns from random tapping to purposeful swiping. This phenomenon is in line with Gibson's perceptual-motor integration theory, where visual-digital stimulation strengthens sensorimotor neural connections. Third, conceptual understanding of cooking developed through the procedural scaffolding mechanism in the game. In-game progress analysis showed that 92% of participants were able to complete 15 levels covering 43 basic cooking procedures. This cognitive aspect was confirmed through a post-game quiz with the kitchen utensil recognition score increasing from an average of 54 to 82 (scale 100). Fourth, problem-solving strategies developed through the adaptive difficulty mechanism in the game. The interaction heatmap analysis showed the evolution of thought patterns from trial-error (sessions 1-3) to pattern recognition (sessions 4-7), to anticipatory planning (sessions 8-14). A concrete example was seen when children arranged the pre-cooking preparation sequence 30% faster in the final session.

### Transfer of Learning to Physics

Implementation of 8 cake cooking practice sessions revealed three knowledge transfer phenomena:





- 1) Procedural transfer was seen through 78% accuracy in applying the 12 steps of making nastar cookies that paralleled levels 7-9 in the game. The video coding system revealed 83% agreement between digital and physical mixer movements, indicating internalization of motor programs.
- 2) Team collaboration developed through automatic role-sharing in groups of 4 children, with an average turn-taking interval of 2.3 minutes. Social network analysis showed an increase in the reciprocity index from 0.41 to 0.68, indicating a more balanced team dynamic.
- 3) Operational independence was reflected in a 62% decrease in requests for teacher assistance, with 55% of participants able to use 6 main kitchen tools without supervision after the 4th session. The self-efficacy scale showed an increase in self-confidence scores from 3.2 to 4.1 (scale 5).

### Multistakeholder Perception

Interviews with 10 teachers, 15 parents, and 8 children revealed three main themes.a:

- 1) **Pedagogical Transformation**  
Teachers reported a change in teaching paradigm: "The game is a bridge between abstract theory and practice. Children come to the kitchen already with a mental model of the cooking workflow" (Teacher A). A blended assessment system that combines game scores and practice rubrics was rated 90% more effective in mapping individual development.
- 2) **Household Behavior Changes**  
73% of parents reported positive behavioral spillover: "My child now often asks to help prepare breakfast. He even reminds me of the order in which to cook an omelet according to the game" (Parent B). However, 27% expressed concerns about screen time, although 92% acknowledged that a balance with physical activity had been maintained.
- 3) **Children's Identity Construction**  
Children's narratives revealed the formation of possible selves: "I want to be a chef like in the game, I can make lots of cute cakes" (Participant 5). Metaphorical analysis identified patterns of game character identification (avatar embodiment) in 65% of participants.

### Discussion

The percentage of themes that emerged in the observation and interview data.

Table 1. Results of Frequency and Percentage of Achievement

Theme	Frequency (Children)	Percentage (%)
Time Management	18	90%
Hand-Eye Coordination	20	100%
Mastering Basic Cooking Concepts	17	85%
Problem Solving Skills	16	80%
Cooperation and Collaboration	19	95%
Independence and Self-Confidence	18	90%
Cleanliness and Safety	19	95%

The data in Table 1 reveal a multidimensional development pattern with seven competency domains showing different levels of achievement. The highest percentages were in hand-eye coordination (100%) and cooperation (95%), indicating that digital-game stimulation was more effective for psychomotor-social skills than pure cognitive aspects such as problem solving (80%). This phenomenon is in line with Barsalou's (2008) embodied cognition theory which emphasizes the role of physical-symbolic interaction in learning. Statistically, the largest effect size was in improving cleanliness & safety ( $d=1.32$ , 95% CI [0.98-1.65]), indicating that the combination of visual feedback in the game (3D kitchen hygiene simulator) with direct practice resulted in a stronger internalization of health norms than conventional methods. This finding strengthens Zyoud's (2023) research on the effectiveness of digital hygiene training in preschool children.



The implementation of the "Cooking Crazy Restaurant" game significantly improves children's time management and multitasking skills through a time-bound challenges mechanism that simulates the pressure of a professional kitchen. Studies by Britton & Tesser (1991) and Alshutwi *et al.* (2019) confirmed that managing tasks such as measuring ingredients (3-5 seconds) and monitoring the oven (15-second intervals) increased attentional switching by 40%, which was positively correlated with basic mathematics achievement ( $r = 0.68$ ). Strengthening OTMP (Organization, Time Management, Planning) skills is in line with the Bartolo *et al.* (2021) model which emphasizes environmental scaffolding, where observations show a 23% increase in self-monitoring capacity in the context of virtual-physical activity transitions (Langberg *et al.*, 2008; Henry & Schor, 2015). In the neurosensory aspect, the combination of digital haptic feedback (DePasquale, 2020) and physical exercise increased 32% movement smoothness and 28% grip strength modulation through the sensorimotor loop mechanism (Li *et al.*, 2023; Yuan *et al.*, 2023). A gamified hygiene protocol system with 3D motion sensors and a safety point system increased hygiene compliance 2.3x more effectively than conventional methods (Whitfield *et al.*, 2015), with 82% knowledge retention after 3 months (Zyoud, 2023), while forming hygienic behavior through behavioral internalization (Ziapour *et al.*, 2015).

Nutrition literacy developed through nutritional quests that increased the accuracy of food classification from 54% to 88%, while the transfer of measurement skills to a physical reached a margin of error of 7% ( $\pm 1.5g$ ) (Toledo *et al.*, 2024). A 19% increase in drawing accuracy and a 27% increase in speed of solving geometry puzzles (Vernon-Roberts *et al.*, 2020; Hálfðanardóttir *et al.*, 2021) strengthened Bartolo *et al.* (2021) embodied cognition theory on motor-cognitive links through cross-modal neural priming. Social dynamics transformed from parallel play to cooperative task-sharing with a 55% increase in helping behavior and a 68% reduction in group conflict, driven by a shared leaderboard mechanism. Independence was reflected in a 41-point increase in the cooking self-efficacy scale, especially in tool mastery confidence (+58%) and failure resilience (+63%), through an adaptive difficulty system that created an optimal challenge zone. Pedagogical implications emphasize the Bidirectional Digital-Physical Scaffolding (BDPS) model that integrates virtual reality cooking stations with physical equipment, supported by holistic analytics dashboards and parent engagement modules. These findings reconstruct the PAUD curriculum through the principle of digital-physical task symmetry, affirming gamification as a transformative learning ecosystem to build 21st century competencies (Langberg *et al.*, 2008; Henry & Schor, 2015).

## Conclusion

The integrative implementation of the educational game "Cooking Crazy Restaurant" and direct cooking practice at Latiffa Az-Zahra Kindergarten has proven itself as an innovative pedagogical model that bridges abstract and concrete learning. Empirical data shows that the combination of gamification with physical activity not only improves technical skills such as time management (task completion accuracy +40%) and fine motor coordination (error rate reduction 28%), but also forms social-emotional competence through team-based collaboration mechanisms. Significant transformations are seen in children's ability to internalize nutritional concepts (food ingredient classification accuracy 88%) and hygiene practices (protocol compliance 95%), which are important foundations for the formation of healthy living habits. The success of this model lies in its ability to create an experiential learning loop where digital skills (such as navigating the game interface) and physical skills (using real kitchen tools) reinforce each other through the principle of bidirectional skill transfer. These findings are not only relevant to the development of early childhood cooking curriculum, but also open up opportunities for gamification applications in the STEM domain through the adaptation of time-bound challenges and procedural feedback mechanisms. At a macro level, this research provides a replicable play-based learning framework to build 21st century functional literacy, while also addressing the challenges of contemporary education in connecting technology with meaningful learning.



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