

WAYS FOR THE TEACHERS TO HELP SLOW LEARNERS

by:

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Slow learner refers to students who are able to learn but in a different rate which inferior to average students. They require more attention and time in order to learn new lesson because their cognitive skills are delayed in developing. This is the reason why they difficulty in learning. However, though they have learning difficulty, they are not categorized as students with intellectual disability because they only need more time and persistence to learn. According to studies, there some possible reasons why children are slow learners. First, due to health complications when the child is in his/her mother's womb. Diseases like measles, gonorrhoea or syphilis, and more may cause mental retardation to a baby. Mother's poor health during pregnancy may also affect the health of the baby after delivery. Next is, mental and emotional problem of the mother during pregnancy. Stress, anxiety and intense worry may produce a distressed child. Another reason is associated to heredity, the problem runs in the family's genetic lineage. Poverty of the parents may also affect the mental state of the child because they cannot eat nutritious food and the surroundings are not conducive for the child's development. Lastly, it could be because of poor education, the child is unlikely to learn if he/ she feels the resentment of the teacher. The child will not strive to learn harder if he/she feels unwanted inside the classroom.

In connection with that, there are proposed ways for the teachers to help slow learner students. These are:

1. Know your students.

Teachers must know the like and interests of his students for him to plan and create teaching strategies and instructions that are suited to the needs and interests of the students. The teacher will also be knowledgeable about what he needs to teach and what guidance he must give to the students. Building good connection to the students will help them to trust the teacher and they may realize that teachers are there to help and guide them.

2. Use spiral approach in teaching.

In order to help slow learners, teachers must revisit their past experiences to build another experiences. Teachers must ensure that the students have the mastery of the previous lesson before introducing a new lesson.

3. Teachers have to be creative and innovative.

Using creative and innovative instructional materials may catch the interest of the students and it may motivate them to learn.

4. Create a suitable and conducive learning environment.

A classroom, which is noise-free, with good air circulation and enough amount of light, is conducive for learning. Over decorated classroom may cause confusion to the children. The teacher may also play music to help lighten the mood of the students.

5. Conducting remedial classes.

Conducting a remedial classes is a great way to help students who got behind of the lesson. In this way, the number of the student are reduced and the teacher may have more time and focus to teach the students.

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