

## HONING THE LITTLE TEACHERS

*by:*

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Do you know what a 'little teacher' is ?

A little teacher is one of the pupils who can lead the class in activities. He can assist and lead his classmates in reading, counting numbers, performing arts, reciting poems, etc. Among his classmates, he has a higher level of leadership potential. Oftentimes, he is a big help to the teacher who has to perform numerous task.

How do we select "little teachers"? Well, as mentioned above, they have a higher level of leadership skills. They can lead the class. In addition to that, most of the times, they are the ones who excel in class. They can be good at reading, solving Math problems, etc. It also connotes that they perform well in class, which allows them to lead the class. They also have a higher level of emotional quotient. They are confident enough to stand up and command

However not everyone who excels academically can be a little teacher. Some may be smart in performing but not confident enough to lead. Others may be average students but confident and competent enough to lead the class.

So why are developing the little teachers? Admittedly, they can help the teachers in making the class interactive and organized. Practicing the little teachers also helps them develop their leadership potentials. Assigning the little teachers also inspire other learners to excel. Since they can see that their classmates can be little teachers, it may be possible that they can be little teachers as well. This idea motivates them to strive and perform better and harder.

The power of peer teaching is evident because little teachers practices what they know and unconsciously, they are able to develop and enhance what they already learned. As for the other pupils, they learn from their classmates (the little teachers), in less pressured and more enjoyable manner.

Having little teachers inside the room also creates a pattern that pupils can learn, share to others and learn again. With the development of these little teachers, the teachers develop self- reliable and responsible individuals who are concerned enough to help their classmates.

How are we going to develop little teachers? Allow them to explain themselves in a respectful manner. Once we see that they have mastered the skill, let them repeat it. Then let them share it to others. Let them teach and lead other learners who are struggling. However, we must be very careful. Remind them that being little teacher doesn't mean they can bully and malign their classmates. Reward them for fulfilling the task and at the same time, reprimand them when they are already crossing the line.

We are not just developing academically proficient individuals. We are in fact, training competent leaders of the future. Who knows, these little teachers may be great leaders someday.

#### *References:*

<https://www.understood.org/en/articles/6-strategies-teachers-use-to-help-kids-with-learning-and-thinking-differences>