

WAYS IN HELPING THE SLOW LEARNERS

by:

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Slow learners are children with average intelligence whose thinking skills have developed significantly more slowly than normal for their age. They have the ability to learn academic skills but at a rate and depth below the average of their same-age peers.

As a Grade 1 teacher handling a lower section, I am dealing with a lot of these kinds of learners in my everyday teaching. Part of the teacher's duty is to deal with these slow learners patiently and help them improve their abilities. This is really a great challenge for teachers. And here are some of the ways in which I had proven effective in helping my slow learners in class.

The first thing we should do is to be patient and considerate to them. Remember that patience is a very important virtue to practice in dealing with them. In order to grasp the concept, slow learners need more time and more repetition as well as more resources from you as their teacher. Having enough patience and consideration will really be of great help to them.

Do not reprimand, humiliate, scold or yell at them in front of the class. This could lower their self-esteem. You will never win his trust by doing so. Remember that slow learners should feel emotional security so that they will be open to being helped by you. And if this happens, it will be a lot easier to improve their abilities.

Give some practice and modify the exercise if needed. Slow learners find it hard to catch up with different lessons. To make it easier for them, prepare exercises with the range of their abilities. In this way, it will be easier for them to complete their tasks, thus

they will have that feeling of fulfillment in themselves. This will add up to their motivation to do better.

Encourage them to take part in activities they like the most in school. Focusing on the things they are good at will boost their confidence. Slow learners may not be as fast as the others in picking up the concepts as their peers but they have their talents and this is for you as their teacher to discover.

Another strategy is to pair them with brighter pupils who will help them. But be sure that you should encourage the brighter students to be humble in dealing with them and interact with them in a proper way.

It is also very important to look at their problem areas and focus on them with extra tutorial help. Remediate these children. This could be done during our remedial class hours. Devote extra time in teaching them. Add variety to your remedial teaching by using strategies like puzzles and games which could catch their attention and enjoy learning a lot.

We must always remember that every child is a unique and special individual. Even if they are slow learners, there is always a possibility for their improvement. As their teachers, we could make a big difference.

References:

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