

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES IN PRIMARY EDUCATION

by:

Raquel S. Calma

Master Teacher II, Sisiman Elementary School

The field of elementary education is changing dramatically as teachers look for new ways to engage learners in deeper learning and are adopting these tactics more frequently.

The introduction of technology into primary school marks the launch of a new age in interactive education. Traditional teaching methods are being remould by educational apps, internet resources, and smartboards. In addition to improving the visual appeal of classes, these technologies cater a variety of learning styles, resulting in a more inclusive educational environment. However, technologies are not transformative itself. The teachers, their pedagogical strategies, and their commitment to utilize innovative approaches are the key into a transformational learning.

Project-based Learning is one innovative way where students' critical thinking abilities are largely utilized. This method encourages a deeper grasp of subjects by involving pupils in real-world situations, which goes beyond simple memorising. Learners develop the problem-solving and teamwork skills necessary for their future endeavours through practical projects, in addition to learning subject-specific knowledge. For instance, a "Play Area" provides children an opportunity to apply their geometry skills by designing a new playground within a room or the school area. "Your Very Own Math Story" is another inspiring exercise wherein they fuse math with visual and language arts to write their own math books.

Gamification, on the other hand, is a similar trend that every institution embraces. Learning becomes more exciting when gamification concepts are included into the

classroom. Lessons are turned into immersive experiences when learners are engaged in compelling educational games and activities. By making learning fun, this method is not only strengthening academic material but also fosters a passion of learning. To conduct this, the following may be adopted: Giving learning badges instead of (or in addition to) points or grades, using levels, checkpoints, and other methods of 'progression', giving students rewards when reaching an important milestone, and using different platforms or electronic and social media applications.

Strategies used in classroom setting have transformed over time. In order for our learners to succeed, they need differentiated instruction to meet multiple learning needs. According to Hencox (2012), differentiated instruction has been defined as changing the pace, level, or kind of instruction you (teacher) provide in response to individual learners' needs, styles, or interests. Teachers are now adopting differentiated instruction in recognition of the inherent variation in pupils' learning profiles. A personalised approach to education is promoted by adapting teaching strategies to each pupil's needs. This approach aims to cater to the distinct abilities and difficulties of every learner by utilising an array of teaching resources, adaptable scheduling, and multiple evaluation techniques.

Anchored to the goal of this method are suggested in these strategies: 'Word Walls' is a different style of introducing new vocabulary to the class, add them to your word wall and encourage them to contribute words as well. Choral Reading is a strategy that encourages students to practice reading with their peers. Also, to help students with phonemic awareness, Let us Play with the Sounds is an effective strategy where the teacher selects a group of words, lets a student start with one word and lets him/her change the word. They can change the word by using another beginning or ending sound, spelling homonyms, or any changes the teacher can think of. Creative Tools. Teachers may use tools which help motivate creativity in the students. Instructions must include visual exercises that captivate interest of learner. This is much effective in bringing out innate possibilities within students. e.g. advertisement made by pupils by themselves.

As equally vital as the cognitive skills, educators must also take into consideration Social-emotional learning (SEL). It emphasizes the importance of understanding and managing emotions, building healthy relationships, and developing social awareness. Teachers should be giving social-emotional learning top priority as they realise how important emotional intelligence is. Students who participate in SEL gain essential intrapersonal and interpersonal abilities that go beyond academic success. This all-encompassing method promotes empathy, self-awareness, and responsible decision-making, which benefits young students' general wellbeing and character development. Social-Emotional Learning Activities for Elementary Schoolers are as enumerated:

Positive Self-talk. It lets your students talk positive thing about themselves to stimulate self-awareness. For example, "I helped my father fixed the closet". Group Debates. It splits the class into groups and give them a social topic to teach right and wrong emotions. Later on, one group is tasked to list down all the right things to do in a situation and another to mention all the wrong things. Hobby Bingo. Learners are going to write their hobbies on different cue cards and raise them one after another to find classmates with the same hobbies.

In conclusion, a flexible and adaptable method of instruction is necessary given the way elementary education is developing. With the help of technology, project-based learning, gamification, differentiation, and social-emotional learning, educators are creating learning opportunities that go beyond traditional textbooks. Integrating these tactics into educational practices made it potential to foster not only academic achievement but also the qualities of creativity and resilience that are crucial for lifelong learning in elementary school. Educators are at the frontline of creating a paradigm shift in education for the next generation. Truly, innovative approaches nurture learning development and growth as primary learners face a leap of changes and challenges in the approaching educational eras.

References:

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