

CATCH-UP FRIDAYS: A PROGRAM IN ENHANCING LITERACY SKILLS

by:

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One of the primary challenges in achieving universal literacy is ensuring access to quality education for all. In many parts of the world, particularly in low-income countries, barriers such as poverty, lack of infrastructure, and cultural norms prevent children from attending school. In this way, the literacy skills of the students can be affected.

To address this kind of problem, specifically the learning gaps among students in elementary and high school, the Department of Education (DepEd) launched “Catch-up Fridays” program. As per the new curriculum, the National Reading curriculum, which includes a range of reading interventions and skill building exercises, will take up the first part of Friday courses. This is a weekly learning intervention program that requires schools to dedicate half of the day to reading activities and the other half to values, health and peace education.

Teachers prepared teaching guides before implementing the intervention. It includes the different activities that can motivate them before reading some texts and some stories. They also perform interactive activities such as “Pinoy Henyo”, skit or drama, spoken word poetry, jingle, poster making, and writing a poem that are related to the text or any kind of reading materials. As a result, students can be motivated to accomplish tasks and improve their reading skills effectively.

In conclusion, despite the challenges, literacy issues can be solved. Through focused interventions and collaborative efforts, specifically the Catch-Up Fridays, we can

tackle these obstacles and strive towards a time when all people can read and write, enabling them to have more satisfying and fruitful lives.

References:

Sevillano, Stephanie (2024). DepEd: 'Catch-Up Fridays' stays, more interventions in place