

EARLY KNOWLEDGE CRITICAL ROLE IN A CHILD'S EDUCATION AND SUCCESS

by:

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Early Knowledge plays a crucial role in a child's development and academic success. Research shows that 90% of brain growth happens by age five, emphasizing the importance of providing high-quality education during this critical period (UNICEF, 2022). Unfortunately, access to early education remains a challenge for families living below the poverty line in our country. As a teacher, our role is to support and nurture at-risk children, especially primary learners and those in the early stages of development, particularly in terms of early knowledge.

Early knowledge is what children explore and practice before they can even read or write. It's not about drills or flashcards; it's about laying the foundation so that the little one has the essential skills when they're developmentally ready to learn fully. Children must develop early skills to be successful with formal reading and writing in school.

Based on UNICEF (2022), 46% of children in the Philippines enter kindergarten unprepared. Studies also show that children who start behind often stay behind. Providing more children with opportunities to develop their early knowledge capabilities is crucial to their success, both academically and personally. Numerous studies have demonstrated the significant benefits of early knowledge, including the Early Language and Literacy Learning Program (ELLL) and Every Child A Reader Program (ECARP).

A strong foundation in early knowledge also sets children up for success in other subjects, such as math, making them 70% more likely to graduate. This underscores the importance of early knowledge in language development, reading readiness, and the

long-term impact it has on a child's educational journey. Teachers play a vital role in developing early knowledge skills in their students.

By participating in professional development programs like Early Language and Numeracy (ELLN) trainings and forums, teachers can identify ways to enrich vocabulary and knowledge building with the help of parents and guardians. The involvement of teachers in engaging parents and guardians is crucial in fostering a child's reading habits and ensuring success in school.

Neuman and Dickinson (2010) emphasize the significance of maternal involvement in the development of children's learning interests and abilities. By working collaboratively with parents and guardians, teachers can provide additional support for students who may be struggling academically. By offering guidance and support to students who are falling behind, teachers can help bridge the gap in their learning and literacy. The impact of school readiness on future success cannot be overstated. By offering vital interventions and support, teachers can attract at-risk students early on and empower them to thrive academically.

Early knowledge serves as a critical foundation for a child's educational journey and future success. By ensuring that every child has access to quality early education, we can create a more equitable educational system and set our students up for success in the long run. As teachers, it's our responsibility to recognize the importance of early knowledge and do everything in our power to provide our students with the support and resources they need to thrive.

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