

UNDERSTANDING AND TEACHING GENERATION ALPHA

by:

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The Generation Alpha is the successors to Generation Z, and they were born between years 2010 and 2024. This so-called Gen Alpha are the newest generation when they become a part of an unintentional global experiment where screens are placed in front of the youngest age as their pacifiers, a medium for entertainment and educational aids. They called Gen Alpha since they started being born in 2010, the year when iPad was propelled, Instagram was made and App was the word of the year, and they even called as screenagers.

In 2015 interview with the New York Times, Mc Grindle said that Generation Alpha was unlike any generation before them because it is indisputable that the children of Gen Alpha have access and more exposure to information and connectivity at an earlier age.

Those kids are the first generation who had device on their hands before they could be able to walk. They understand how connected the world is, having a communication with family many miles away through FaceTime or developing close friendships with people they may never meet in person with the use of social media.

In this matter, teachers play a vital role in shaping the educational experiences of the young ones especially nowadays considering that kids are under the so-called Generation Alpha. Teachers should understand the unique characteristics and needs of this generation. Here are some key roles that teachers play for Generation Alpha students:

1. Facilitate digital literacy. Since the Generation Alpha is the first to grow up entirely in a digital world, the teachers must guide them and lead them in becoming proficient with technologies, guarding them and ensuring that they can navigate, analyze and evaluate digital information wisely and effectively. Teachings should include teaching safe and being responsible user of internet.

2. Awareness on the dangers of technology. The spread of fake information can lead to confusion and poor understanding on certain issues. With these, baby boomers, generation X and Z are more likely to put emphasis on historical perspectives through considering and analyzing facts. Teachers should incorporate their skills in understanding various cultural standpoints which deepens knowledge and learning experiences for Generation Alpha.

3. Cultivate Social-Emotional Skills. Generation Alpha students need strong social-emotional skills despite their digital proficiency. Teachers should develop a supportive classroom environment that caters and fosters resilience, empathy, collaboration and communication skills.

Despite the differences when it comes to significant ages and experiences, teachers have important skills and expertise to handle Generation Alpha students. Teachers have the responsibility to prepare their students for an ever-changing future.

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