

IGNITING A LOVE FOR READING IN CHILDREN

by:

Janice M. Cruz

Teacher III, Sta. Rosa Elementary School

Parents, teachers, and guardians play a significant role by teaching children the love of reading. Teaching pupils to love reading is one of the very best things that we can offer for them. Teaching them to love reading is not just helping them to learn different words, but also we teach them to imagine things to put them into reality and teach them that if they can think of it, there are many more possibilities that they can do it.

As a teacher, it is also important to read a certain story out loud to your pupils, and this process can be a great way to get them into books. Always remember that it is not just about the words, but also it is about the way how they are spoken. Some teachers tend to change their voices based on the characters in the book, this way, it serves as an add-on to a more engaging and exciting reading experience. It is also significant to ask questions as you go along regarding the story that you are reading to keep the students engaged on a high level. Additionally, the words that you are saying must be spoken clearly because this will develop their vocabulary and enhance their listening skills.

Surrounding children with various storybooks is the simplest way to ignite their interest in books. That is why it is important to have a comfortable reading corner filled with picture stories, colorful books, and fun interactive reading materials in the school or even at home because this will catch the children's attention. As a teacher, we should let our pupils engage in reading and must take into account what topic a child is interested in the most. Letting them choose what they want to read makes them feel in control, and that makes reading more fun and enjoyable. It is also significant to put some bright

pictures and images regarding the text that they are reading to aid their imaginations and make the experience even better.

Nowadays, technology has a great role in making reading fun and exciting. Utilizing various types of books, such as real books, e-books, audiobooks, and educational applications, can effectively add something extra. Various educational apps have cool animations and effects that make the story more real. Somehow, these aspects should be balanced; they can both have digital and traditional books so that they can experience both worlds.

Studies show that children learn as well by watching. If they see their teachers, parents, and guardians have a love for reading, they will start considering books as something enjoyable, not just a burden that keeps them surviving schooling. Building a lifelong reader starts with simple moments such as talking about a certain book, sharing favorite stories, and celebrating small reading milestones, whether a finished chapter or just a few pages. Our goal is not to force children into reading but it is more to make it a habit they look forward to. Books can become a big part of a child's life with a little encouragement and the correct approach.

References:

National Institute for Literacy. (2008). Developing early literacy: Report of the National Early Literacy Panel. National Institute for Literacy.

Smith, D. (2015). The role of family in fostering a love of reading: Understanding the importance of reading at home. *Journal of Early Childhood Literacy*, 15(3), 320-335.

Williams, L. M. (2017). Interactive reading strategies for young children: Enhancing engagement and literacy development. *Early Childhood Education Journal*, 45(4), 505-512.