

BUILDING STRONG READERS: THE IMPORTANCE OF FOUNDATIONAL READING IN GRADE 1

by:

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Reading is a cornerstone of education; therefore, Grade One is one of the crucial stages of developing a child's fundamental skills. It is a critical stage because this is where children start to decode, comprehend, and construct their vocabulary. Proper foundation in reading will help students to become successful in other subjects and feel confident of being able to learn.

The first grade is considered the transition stage because this is where the students begin to recognize letters and their sounds. When students are now familiar with letters and their sounds, they can now proceed to read simple words and sentences. Slowly they can also be able to read simple text and stories. Phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension are the most essential skills that a student needs to develop reading. After they are able to read independently, they feel proud and more interested in learning, which will also aid in enhancing their memory, focus, and intellect. This later on will change them into self-sufficient and confident readers.

Early literacy will also be unthinkable without the support from parents, teachers, and other stakeholders. There are also different approaches to introducing letters and their sounds, words, and sentences to students. Everyday drills using flashcards and activity-like exercises will also make learning phonics fun and enjoyable. Encouraging students to love reading at a very young age is very important in establishing a love for reading. Exposing students to books and stories even before they can read themselves by regularly reading aloud stories to them will also boost their interest in reading. Providing a book-space environment where books are readily

available and accessible is also a step to build independent readers. Being a role model to students by letting them see you reading and being interested in books is also a way to make them love reading.

With the right support from teachers, parents, and other stakeholders, every child can be a reader. They can now unlock a world full of knowledge and imagination. Learning to read is like a journey that is filled with milestones and achievements. We must always consider the diversity of learning styles and the uniqueness of every student.

References:

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