

KWENTONG PAMBATA FOR GMRC DEVELOPMENT OF GRADE 1 PUPILS

by:

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The educational landscape of our country continually seeks innovative approaches to foster holistic development in its young learners. A critical or key component of this development is Good Manners and Right Conduct (GMRC), a subject reinstated to the basic education curriculum to instill core values such as respect, responsibility, and compassion. In this concern, the strategic integration of culturally relevant media, specifically "Kwentong Pambata," presents a promising avenue and part for enhancing GMRC development among Grade 1 learners. The efficacy of leveraging "Kwentong Pambata" as an educational tool, aligning with recent Philippine educational strategies and providing a detailed framework for its implementation.

The Department of Education (DepEd) in the Philippines has consistently underscored the foundational role of GMRC in shaping well-rounded citizens. The subject aims to cultivate moral character and ethical behavior from an early age, recognizing that these values are crucial for personal growth and societal harmony. Storytelling, a time-honored pedagogical method, has long been recognized for its profound impact on children's cognitive and socio-emotional development. It provides a relatable medium through which complex moral concepts can be simplified and internalized. Kwentong Pambata, a popular Filipino children's program, masterfully employs storytelling to convey moral lessons and values rooted in Filipino culture and universal principles. Research indicates that exposure to prosocial television content, such as that found in Kwentong Pambata can significantly promote positive behaviors and attitudes in children, making it a valuable resource for values education.

To effectively harness the potential of Kwentong Pambata for GMRC development in Grade 1 learners, a multi-faceted approach is essential. Firstly, educators can strategically integrate episodes of Kwentong Pambata into their GMRC lessons. Teachers can use these animated stories as springboards for discussions, encouraging learners to identify the moral dilemmas presented, analyze characters' actions, and articulate the lessons learned. Post-viewing activities, such as role-playing, drawing, or writing simple reflections, can further solidify understanding and application of the values. Secondly, parental involvement is paramount. Encouraging parents to watch Kwentong Pambata with their children and engage in follow-up conversations about the moral lessons conveyed in the program can extend learning beyond the classroom. This collaborative effort between home and school reinforces the values taught, creating a consistent environment for GMRC reinforcement.

The integration of Kwentong Pambata aligns seamlessly with the broader educational reforms spearheaded by the DepEd. The "Sulong EduKalidad" program, launched in 2020, emphasizes improving the quality of education through curriculum enhancement, teacher upskilling, and robust community engagement. Within this framework, the use of culturally relevant and engaging materials like Kwentong Pambata directly supports the goal of making learning more effective and meaningful. Furthermore, the DepEd's strategies for 2023 have placed a significant emphasis on leveraging technology and innovative methods to enhance GMRC education. A DepEd Memorandum in 2023 highlighted the importance of utilizing digital platforms to disseminate educational content, including multimedia resources, to a wider audience. This strategic shift provides an opportune moment to widely distribute and promote Kwentong Pambata as a digital resource for GMRC instruction, ensuring its accessibility to learners across diverse geographical locations. The move towards digital integration is seen as a key factor in enhancing both the reach and the effectiveness of GMRC education, making it more dynamic and appealing to young learners.

The strategic use of Kwentong Pambata offers a culturally resonant and pedagogically sound approach to fostering GMRC development in Grade 1 learners in the Philippines. By combining engaging storytelling with structured classroom activities and active parental involvement, educators can significantly contribute to the moral and ethical upbringing of young Filipinos. This approach not only enriches the learning experience but also aligns with the DepEd's ongoing commitment to quality education and the holistic development of every learner, preparing them to be responsible, compassionate, and upright members of society. The continued exploration and implementation of such innovative strategies are vital for building a strong foundation of values in the nation's youth.

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