

HELPING GRADE 1 LEARNERS SUCCEED: SUPPORT STRATEGIES FOR TEACHERS

by:

Phoebe-Jane P. Dizon

Teacher II, Nagbalayong Elementary School

Grade 1 is an important year in a child's education as they move from kindergarten to a more structured learning environment.

Teachers have a vital role in helping students adapt to this change and build essential skills. To make sure every student can do well, teachers need to use effective strategies that help both students who find it challenging and those who are more advanced. Here are some key strategies that can support Grade 1 learners:

1.

Provide Differentiated Instruction

Each child learns in their own way, and some may need more help in particular areas.

Differentiated instruction means offering different learning experiences that match each student's needs. For instance, one group might work on recognizing letter sounds while another group could practice combining sounds into simple words. Offering a range of learning activities ensures that every student is given the right level of challenge.

2.

Focus on Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

Grade 1 is a key time for developing social and emotional skills.

Some children may find it hard to share, listen, or manage their emotions. Including SEL in classroom activities helps children understand and handle their feelings better, and interact positively with others. Activities such as role-playing, reading stories that explore emotions, or having a daily “feelings check-in” can help build emotional intelligence and improve social skills.

3.

Use Scaffolding to Build Skills

Scaffolding is a method where teachers give students support as they learn new things, and slowly reduce that support as they become more confident.

For example, when teaching writing, you might start by giving students sentence starters or a list of words to choose from. As their skills improve, you can offer less help, encouraging them to write more independently. This step-by-step approach helps students gain confidence and ability.

4.

Encourage Peer Learning and Collaboration

Working with peers can be very helpful in Grade 1 classrooms.

Pairing students with different strengths allows them to learn from each other. For example, a student who is good at reading can help a peer who is struggling, which helps both students improve. Group activities and collaborative tasks also help develop teamwork and communication skills, which are important for future success.

5.

Provide Extra Practice and Support for Struggling Learners

Some Grade 1 students may need more help to master basic skills in reading, math, and writing.

Extra practice through small group sessions, one-on-one support, or tailored assignments can help these students catch up. Being patient and encouraging is essential for building confidence in students who are finding things challenging. Tools like flashcards, online games, or educational apps can make learning fun and allow students to practice at their own pace.

Supporting Grade 1 learners involves using a variety of strategies to meet individual needs and support growth.

By using differentiated instruction, integrating social-emotional learning, scaffolding new skills, promoting peer collaboration, and offering extra support to students who need it, teachers can create a supportive environment that helps all students succeed. With your guidance, Grade 1 learners will build the skills and confidence needed for their educational journey.

References: