

NURTURING BEGINNING READERS THROUGH ONE-ON-ONE TUTORIALS

by:

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Teachers often handle large groups of eager young minds. Teaching beginning reading poses a significant challenge in the educational setup. While whole-class instruction provides a foundation, many students often struggle and fall behind. Some students need more support than what they get in a busy classroom. Some kids need extra help that they can't always get in class. One-on-one tutoring after school provides them with the time and attention they need to improve their reading comprehension. With patience and care, it helps them feel more confident and believe in themselves.

The approach starts with the basics. For a child who struggles, reading is not just about sounding out words. It involves connecting letters to sounds, blending those sounds, recognizing familiar words quickly, and understanding the meaning of the text. The teacher carefully goes through the alphabet, letter by letter, sound by sound. They might use flashcards for phonics drills, play interactive games to identify rhyming words, or trace letters in sand to support hands-on learning. Every misunderstanding is addressed, and each mispronunciation is corrected in a gentle manner. Simple stories are read aloud and then re-read together, with the teacher guiding the student to track words with their finger, spot familiar patterns, and discuss the content of the text. It's the art of passion and dedication, crafting a way for struggling learners.

This goes beyond just extending the school day; it's a deep commitment. For teachers, these after-class sessions require personal sacrifices. The school's clock stops for the students, but for the teacher, extra hours begin. They may delay their own journey home, postpone personal tasks, or cut short family time. It's a quiet battle against fatigue

after a full day of teaching, shifting from managing a group to giving focused instruction. They invest emotionally, feeling empathy for frustrated children, celebrating small breakthroughs, and sharing excitement for progress. Resources might be limited, pushing teachers to create their own materials from what is available. Teacher's unsung deeds. Teachers are superheroes that every learner needs.

Every bit of effort is worth it. A child who once struggled with simple words can suddenly read a sentence on their own. Their eyes sparkle when a tricky sound finally clicks, and their proud smile says it all as they finish a story on their own.

Reading success is about more than just school. It boosts confidence, opens doors, and makes learning fun. A child who reads well speaks up more, enjoys other subjects, and walks a little taller in and out of the classroom. They no longer dread reading aloud or shy away from assignments requiring comprehension. They feel empowered.

In the context of the Department of Education (DepEd)'s goal for quality basic education, one-on-one tutoring represents the spirit of leaving no child behind. It shows that while policies and programs establish the framework, it is the heart and commitment of teachers that truly impact the lives of vulnerable learners. Salute to all teachers, sacrificing every single second that can change learners' lives forever.

References:

Department of Education (DepEd) Philippines. (n.d.). Basic Education Research Agenda (BERA). Retrieved from DepEd website (Specific link may vary over time, but this is a key guiding document for DepEd's research priorities).