CHILD FRIENDLY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

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Related articles by E. Fauziati, (2016) describe Child Friendly School as a school that recognize basic rights. A school is considered child-friendly when it provides a safe, clean, healthy, and productive environment for children.

Children spend most of their time in school 6 to 8 hours everyday from Monday to Friday to finish their schooling from Primary to Junior and Senior High School. They are in the hands of teachers and other school personnel to develop them holistically with knowledge, skills, and values in preparation for their adult life and be productive and responsible citizen of the country.

Since school is an integrated part of their life, it must be a place not only for learning to happen but a place which they can consider a second home or can be said as a child-friendly school. What should be the characteristic of a child friendly school? The following can be factors of a child friendly school:

1. Safety environment that could ensure and safeguard the safety of the students. School must have a perimeter fence, security guard, safety signage, pedestrian lane, school personnel must ensure that school facilities are functional and safe to use that may not cause accidents to anyone. School facilities must also be enough and sufficient to the needs of the students. Important School Facilities must be provided for the needs of students like library, playground, covered court, computer laboratory, TLE laboratory, Science laboratory, speech laboratory, comfort rooms for boys and girls, school canteen,
school clinic and the like. School must also have tools and equipment that can be used for every subject to enhance learning.

2. Teaching and Non-Teaching personnel can be regarded as child-friendly, kind, understanding, supportive, humanitarian, fair and just, and gender sensitive. They must know how to deal with the different levels of intelligence and socio-economic background of their students, their teaching strategies must be child-centered, with respect to individual differences, gender equality, and socio-economic background. A Teacher must make a difference in the life of every child by making them feel that they are important and loved and give them enough encouragement to pursue their studies despite of the day to day problems they meet with regard to family, finances, difficult subjects, and pressure from peers.

3. Schools must have special program for the different types of learner. Nowadays, DepEd created different special program for the students like the Special Science Program, Special Program for Sports, SPED, special Program for students with Disabilities, Hearing Impaired, Disabled, Blind, Autistic, and the like. All students are given access to quality education regardless of their situation or status and level of intelligence. There are special programs that can cater their needs. There are also other programs for those who cannot attend regularly in school. “Open High School” where students can still continue their studies by giving them take-home modules that they can accomplish whenever they have extra time. They can work at the same time continue their studies in Junior and Senior High School up to College.
4. A School needs to be child-centered. Cambridge dictionary used to refer child centered as the ways of teaching and treating children in which the child’s needs and wishes are the most important thing. A child centered approach to kindergarten by “The Compass School” encourages children to take learning into their own hands as opposed to being directed or prompted by a teacher. Children take responsibility for making choices about what they will learn and explore. A child-centered teaching strategies must employ different activities for the students. Students must engage in the different activities in order to learn. Teachers must act as facilitator of the different activities that will give students the chance to express their ideas, to actualize the performance of different skills in MAPEH, TLE, Math, Science and other subjects. Students learn best in the actual engagement in different school activities. Teachers must employ strategies where students can be utilized and be involved like group dynamics, role playing, reporting, games, etc. School heads must create school policies that will protect the right of students and could let them feel that they are important. They need to have a voice in the school where they can be involved in planning and decision making and formulation of policies concerning them. If the school can provide a safe, clean, healthy and productive environment for the children or students, then it can be categorized as a child friendly school.

References:

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CHILD FRIENDLY SCHOOL: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

https://publikasiilmiah.ums.ac.id>handle

Child Friendly School System- DepEd


https://www.thecompassschool.com