CHILDREN’S READING SKILLS: VITAL TO THEIR SUCCESS IN SCHOOL

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Since time immemorial, reading is considered a factor in the educational performance of the readers. A number of researches suggest that children who read for enjoyment develop broader vocabulary and increase their general knowledge. It is certain that reading skills allow access to improve communication and language skills. In addition, reading opens doors to all kinds of new worlds for the children.

The Department of Education (DepEd) has been so active in promoting various programs to improve the reading skills of the learners. One of these is the Every Child A Reader Program (ECARP) which is a national program that supports the thrust of the DepEd in making every child a reader and writer at his or her grade level. It supports the realization for Educational for All (EFA) target of universal school participation and elimination of dropouts including repetition. It is implemented by components such as design, implementation and monitoring, evaluation of reading interventions, development, administration of reading assessments and treatment and reporting data.

On November 22, 2019, DepEd launched the 3Bs Initiative (Bawat Bata Bumabasa). Schools are encouraged to intensify their advocacy for reading in order to make every learner a reader. As generated from DepEd Memo No. 173 s. 2019, there are still many early grade learners struggling to meet the learning standards in early language, literacy and numeracy. Gaps in reading comprehension resulted to low achievement levels in English, Math and Science. Moreover, both elementary and high school learners are still deficient in literacy skills.
With this in view, being responsive to uplift the performance of the pupils is necessary. As school heads, implementation and monitoring of the reading programs can help. On the part of the teachers, by extending extra miles of concern and kindness to their pupils particularly to the low performing ones can make a difference. Even the parents too! Parents are the most important educators in the life of their child. By having the habit of reading together at home, a child’s vocabulary will be enhanced.

Undeniably, reading skills play a big role in the success of the children in the school. By taking this matter seriously, it is expected that they will perform better in various aspects.

References:
