COMMUNICATION: THE ULTIMATE KEY IN BUILDING PARENT-TEACHER RELATIONSHIP

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Some people seemed to be born as communicators by nature; these people often know what to do and what to say when reaching out with someone else. Their words make others comfortable in awkward situations, they can diffuse tension, hit the nail on the head and even bring out the best to whoever they are with. Call it charismatic, call it charming, call it cool or a talent maybe. Whatever you may call it, the truth is, these effective communicators possess a wide range of verbal skills. Contrary to what we may think, these communication skills are not always innate - this can be practiced and something that can just be learned by anybody.

As teachers, we are constantly involved in variety of complex communication situations. We communicate with our students, with our colleagues, and with parents. Being able to use communication as a tool for building strong partnerships with parents plays an important role to the success of your students.

Currently, our educational system worldwide is facing a great turmoil due to this COVID-19 Pandemic. Student’s adjustment to adapt the new norms in the education system, which is the blended learning relies, at least in part, on the teacher’s collaboration with parents. Parents, on the first place are believed to be the first teachers of their children. This is a situation that every teacher and every parent has faced – a challenge that will mold them equally as educator, mediator, counselor, and communicator.

If both parties accepted the challenge, then there would be fewer misunderstandings, fewer resentments and less blaming. Parents and teachers should
have shared their top priority that is to consider the best interest of the child. Wouldn’t teachers be more understanding of parents and parents be more supportive of teachers? If there is a co-parenting process on the teacher’s perspective to the student, then on the other hand, there must be a co-teaching process on the parent’s perspective. Effective communication is the ultimate key on building a parent-teacher relationship on mutual respect.

This pandemic really hit us hard, but it also taught us morals in unification. We may have experienced a sudden shift in the learning process, but this will not hinder the success of the educational platform for students. The foundation on which a successful educational program is built is a strong partnership between parents and teachers. This partnership lifts up the student, who benefits from the consistency of adult support assistance, both at home and at school.

References:

Easy and Effective Ways to Communicate with Parents by Barbara Mariconda. 2003
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