COPING WITH ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER LEARNERS IN A CLASSROOM SET-UP

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The success of the teaching and learning process depends upon how the teacher copes and handles the factors that hinder its success. According to Forness & Kavale (2001), an academic success of child is often dependent on his or her ability to attend to tasks and teacher and classroom expectations with slight distraction. Such skill enables a student to get necessary information, complete assignments, and participate in classroom activities and discussions.

As generated from Educational Resources Information Center (2020), Attention Deficit Disorder is a syndrome considered by serious and determined difficulties in the following three specific areas:

1. Attention span.
2. Impulse control.
3. Hyperactivity (sometimes).

ADD is a chronic disorder that can start in infancy and through adulthood, having negative effects on a child's life at home, school, and within the community. The term attention deficit disorder was presented to describe the characteristics of these children more clearly.

With an ADD learner, “fewer the distractions the better” An organize room set up will help lessen the problem of the teacher in dealing with the learner with ADD syndrome. Here are some tips that will start connection for a successful intervention.
Right from day one, make clear rules and post them, with reasonable consequences and with rewards.

Move his desk to where there are fewer interruptions. Close to the teacher to monitor and encourage, or near a well-attentive child. Seat those clever and quiet girls next to the ADD child.

Students with attentional problems do better in classrooms with four walls than in an open area arrangement.

Have distractible students seated nearest to place in the class where you will give directions or discussion. At least as close as possible without being disciplinary.

To minimize distractions, seat the student away from both the hall and windows.

Stand near the student when giving instructions or presenting the lesson. Use the student’s worksheet as an example.

Try arranging desks in a horseshoe shape to allow for appropriate discussion while authorizing independent work.

Helping the learners to focus their attention by keeping a routine and a schedule for them. This will help them organize everyday items.

The use of homework and notebook organizers will also help ADD learners to be organized.

Providing simple praises and rewards when rules are followed will also help ADD learners to be motivated and kept on focus.
According to Weaver and Landers (1998), what educators must do is to rely upon current best practice which is translated as "what seems to work". It has to be remembered that it is always important to understand the characteristics of our learners, including those relating to disabilities in order for teachers to cope with their learning needs. This knowledge will greatly help in the implementation of best practices.

References:


http://psychcentral.com/lib/coping-tips-for-attention-deficit-disorder/

http://addinschool.com/room-set-up-elementary-school-adhd/

Educational Resources Information Center (2020). “Teaching Children with Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD)”.