DEVELOPING CHILDREN TO BE CRITICAL THINKERS

by:
Mark B. Macapinlac
Teacher III, Nagbalayong Elementary School

In the advent of the 21st century, students are becoming more aware of what is happening in his surroundings. They are becoming more critical thinkers. They involve in the discussion of different issues. They are at present considered as one of the strongest galvanizers in the education sector and the society as a whole.

The passage of time through a new millennium saw educators undergoing scrutiny or being given a chance for re-examination. It seems that education is going through a paradigm shift. Quality appears to be the password to the 21st century. But we should realize that quality is not perfection. It is improving students ‘previous best and showing that they are at the leading edge in most aspects.

In the school level, they are doing their best to yield students who are products of quality teaching. The K to 12 Basic Education Program has prepared a curriculum that is well-tailored for students. Teachers must master the art of questioning. Questions should not only be beginning with on what, where, when and who. Instead, teachers should develop students to become more critical on the way they analyze questions or situations. They must learn to answer questions beginning with why and how or explain.

The use of modern technology should be also implemented to widened knowledge and information that will serve as a venue for critical thinking.

As a critical thinker and as a self-respecting individual, you must know yourself well, your talents, abilities, capabilities and potentials. You know you are equal to whatever task that comes along. But people don’t know that because they can’t read
your mind. So, others may realize how you think critically only when you manifest it through your completed tasks.

Critical thinkers focus on results because teachers observe and look for these. A critical thinker works systematically and analytically; there is no need for them to be showy in class. They don’t need standing ovation. They will be a standout in any crowd. When teachers expected a very good output from them, the critical thinkers do the task with the best of their abilities.

As a critical thinker and you’re assigned to do a task, if you err, admit it and say you’re sorry. Don’t be afraid to do it. It will not make you less of a person when you do. What is important is that you analyze every question or situation systematically and carefully.

References:
Rosas, N. The Never Ending Quest for Quality Teaching. 2007. Phil. Education in the Third Millennium