ESSENTIAL ROLE OF TEACHERS IN DEVELOPING READING SKILLS OF LEARNERS

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Across all disciplines, reading has a pivotal role in the development of learning of every learner.

Reading skills is one of the important life-long skills that need to be nurtured and improved. The Department of Education adopted various projects and programs to reactivate and reinforce the level of reading skills of the learners. Every Child A Reader (ECARP), is a program that aims to equip the learners’ reading and writing skills, thus producing fast and independent readers.

Teachers play an essential role in the development of the reading and comprehension skills of the pupils. Varied techniques and methodologies are conceptualized and adopted to cope up with the needs of the pupils. Teachers’ creativity and innovative skills are also important in achieving the purpose.

Having good reading skills is advantageous for the pupils. Reading will lead them to academic excellence. High aptitude for learning can be obtained through reading. Children with high standards of reading develop higher thinking skills. They may perform well in school because they will easily understand what their teachers presented to them. Pupils who read a lot and who understand what they read are the ones who are possible to get better grades. Teachers conduct various reading activities in schools and other learning facilities which will enhance their reading skills. Phil-IRI, Read-a-Thon, “Drop Everything and Read (Dear)” and remedial reading classes for
children are some of the useful activities in which pupils can engage and learn the basics of reading.

Moreover, if pupils have skills in reading, they preferably become good communicators. They can easily express themselves, their ideas, and emotions with regards to the subject and characters within the book they read. A good communication skill leads to the establishment of a better and effective interaction of pupils among other pupils and to the teachers as well. At this point, teachers are expected to guide the learners for them to become efficient communicators.

A teacher who makes reading a form of enjoyment for pupils is an effective way to stimulate their interests in printed books. It is essential that pupils shouldn't get bored or tired during reading time. Teachers adopted differentiated techniques such as pair reading, story-telling, and the shared reading or readers’ mentoring program. Peer tutoring is a common but effective way of promoting reading readiness skills. It includes older students who are engaged in helping the younger ones in coping with their struggles and difficulties in reading.

The role of the teacher in making the learners read and understand what he is reading is very important. Once the child has the mastery of reading, he will have the knowledge which makes him capable to explore the world towards a better future.
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