HANDLING BEHAVIORALLY CHALLENGED PUPILS WITH A SMILE

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“If we don’t start doing right by kids with social, emotional, and behavioral challenges, we’re going to keep losing them at an outstanding rate. Doing the right thing isn’t an option. It is an imperative. There are lives in the balance, and we all need to do everything we can to make sure those lives aren’t lost.” (Dr. Ross W. Greene, 2018)

We cannot deny the fact that discipline problems in many schools showed that aggressive and violent behaviors are increasing among pupils/students. A lot of teachers nowadays were truly frustrated with the disruptive behaviors of their pupils. They were physically and mentally prepared each day to do their mission as educators, but at the end of the day, their hearts were broken and the fire began to fade. Consequently, abrasive behavior is a hurdle to learning and can easily threaten the health and wellbeing of teachers. Unfortunately, the results of these are lost teaching days, unhappy teachers and failing students. “Truly, teachers nowadays must have a BIG HEART rather than A BIG MIND.” A heart who is willing to keep the fire burning in spite of the challenges experienced brought by the pupils.

Moreover, teachers need not to be discouraged with the kind of pupils they have in this modern era. It is indeed challenging to have behaviorally challenged pupils in the class, but it is even more challenging if teachers will aim to transform these behaviorally challenged pupils into role model individuals. Yes, these pupils may bring P.A.I.N.S to the teachers oftentimes because of their unfavorable attitudes and behaviors, but may the word PAINS be a reminder to the teachers to have a Positive Attitude In Negative Situations.
With this, teachers may have the courage to face behaviorally challenged pupils with a smile. Furthermore, to help teachers handle behaviorally challenged pupils with courage and positive disposition, the following tips must be considered.

**How to handle Behaviorally Challenged Pupils with a SMILE? Just remember the word CHALLENGE...**

**C – Choose to know them deeper**

Teachers may conduct interviews with the previous teachers of the behaviorally challenged pupils. It is important to know their records and backgrounds to have a clear basis on how to deal with them. Likewise, home visitation is another way to know them deeper. Have the patience to talk to their parents and other relatives and have the chance to build harmonious relationship with them. They have important roles to achieve the goal in transforming behaviorally challenged pupils into role model individuals.

**H – Have the chance to be their FRIEND and not their ENEMY**

Teachers often dislike pupils with behavioral problems. Pupils who were often involved in bullying incidents and cutting classes, pupils with poor study habits and frequent absences and the like. In reality, it is really hard to love those kind of pupils, it is really hard to like them. Teachers need to accept the reality that it is their mission to love every pupil fair and just. Love them whole-heartedly in spite of who they are. Show them that they are important. Control the anger, start to smile and be their friend.

**A – Assign them to be leaders and bring out their full potentials**

In the actual scenarios, teachers often choose role model pupils to be the leaders in the classrooms. Pupils who possess all the positive traits, and pupils who have the potentials to be the leaders. But the question is, can we assign our pupils with disruptive behaviors to be the leaders in the classrooms? NO for some but YES for many. This approach will serve as reinforcement and encouragement to the behaviorally challenged pupils to lead
and stand as leaders. Have faith and believe that they can, give them the chance to prove their worth in spite of their weaknesses and limitations as pupils. Teachers may guide and lead them to bring out their full potentials. As once mentioned in a quote, “Great leaders don’t create followers, they create more leaders.” We’ll never know that in the near future, these behaviorally challenged pupils will be one of the great leaders we have today.

L - Look at their strengths and...

Every individual has unique characteristics, strengths and potentials. Thus, everybody has his/her own set of strengths. It will be helpful for the teachers to look at the strengths of their behaviorally challenged pupils instead of blaming them for what they don’t have. We cannot have it all. Your strengths may not be their strengths, and their strengths may not be your strengths. Teachers, just be their strengths when they are at the weakest point of their lives.

L - Lead them to improve their weaknesses

“Teachers, just be their strengths when they are at the weakest point of their lives”. Everybody has their own set of weaknesses as well. We have to bear in mind that a great teacher does not terrorize the lives of behaviorally challenged pupils, because a great teacher knows that it is his mission to transform every pupil’s life. Have the patience to lead, and have the zeal to turn their weaknesses into strengths.

E - Equip yourself with great lessons in life as teachers

Handling pupils with behavioral problems is truly challenging. Most teachers were disappointed with the kind of pupils they have. They were consumed and burdened each day. But this is the reality. Whether you like it or not, you have to embrace every single moment with your pupils wearing a smile and a courage. Have your Daily Devotion every morning by reading books, Daily Bread, or even a Bible to have an inspiration each
day, this will give you an encouragement to continue and do your mission with a smile. At the end of the day you may also have your Daily Reflections to evaluate yourself as a teacher. Your reflections will also serve as your guide to improve yourself as an educator.

**N – Never stop giving Reinforcements and Interventions**

For every problem, there will always be an appropriate solution. Never stop giving reinforcements to your pupils whether positive or negative. Teachers also need to exert efforts to have an appropriate intervention that will strengthen the behaviors of the problem pupils. Always wear patience, because in God’s perfect time, you will achieve the goals for our pupils.

**G – Give your best every day**

As a human being who believes in God, nothing is impossible to Him. Above anything else, our pupils need prayer. Pray for them every day. Ask God to guide you in molding and transforming your pupils. Trust Him that He will be your guide each day. We can do everything with God, without Him, we can do nothing.

**E – End up the day with a Smile and Positive Vibes**

Stay positive no matter what. Although teaching pupils with disruptive behaviors is truly hard, challenging and tiring, you can handle it with a smile by always having positive disposition in life as a teacher. Wear a smile, and let others smile because of you.

**References:**

www.ukessays.com
www.google.com/leadershipquotes