HANDLING SLOW LEARNERS IN CLASS

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The individual differences of pupils in the class are usually the problems that a classroom teacher faced. Different pupils of varying intelligence, interests, fast learners, slow learners, active children, lazy children, etc. are entrusted to her. As the manager of learning in the classroom, she is thus confronted with the problem of what to do with each kind of individual in her class in order to achieve the objective of education.

Among these problems, the slow learners in class are the most challenging. These slow learners are children who have difficulty in adjusting to the curriculum of the academic school because of slightly inferior intelligence or learning ability. What a teacher may do to help these pupils? There is indeed, a need to help these pupils not only for the sake of teacher’s performance but for the benefit of these children, in a long run, for their future.

The teacher must begin where the child is. She must build on what nature has given the child. The interest of the child must be aroused, he must feel the need of knowing something. After the interest has been aroused, the teacher should present the subject matter concretely to make it easier for them to get through with the lesson or through many senses as possible to stimulate every bit of brain power the child has. Making these fun, life-motivated situations, attention will be secured, resourcefulness developed, ambition instilled. Also, a background given that will to some extent help the child to reason and make judgments in simple environmental situations. The teacher has to organize the educational environment in a way that will harmonize with the child’s abilities and disabilities, and which will develop security through belongingness and adequacy through success and achievement.
Among the methods that have been found successful in the management of these children are:

1. Focusing the child’s attention through positive suggestions and a positive classroom atmosphere on acceptable social behavior.

2. Using role-playing or social drama for the purpose of developing insights in practical life situations.

3. Organizing teaching procedures in harmony with good mental principles.

4. Allowing the children to plan activities within their range of interest and abilities.

5. Organizing self-determining activities to give children practice in the independent management of their affairs.

6. The leading facet of teaching a slow learner is being patient. The weak cognitive skills and slow speed of learning is considered as the major issue with slow learners. A teacher has to be understanding and patient toward their ability of having a low attention span and get distracted easily. Try to find creative ways to cope up with the situation of repeating every basic instruction and concepts.

With good teachers coupled with genuine love and warmth, sympathy and love for our pupils, slow learners will profit pleasurably from school work, feel that they belong and ultimately find their respective places ‘under the sun’.

The children need to know that it is completely okay to learn things slowly than not to learn at all. Patience and continuous encouragement is the key.
References:

Athani, Samiksha., 10 Tips to Teach and Improve Slow Learners in Class

https://logicroots.com/MathBlog/tips-to-motivate-slow-learners/