HELPING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES LEARN

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Children with special needs come to our classes not as a burden but a blessing. Their being special make them more loveable. There are numerous ways on how we can help these children learn, maybe not as fast as their classmates but at the pace most appropriate to them.

Teachers should be equipped with the proper knowledge and training on how to help these children. There are seminars and trainings that they can attend and they can seek the help of the school's guidance counselor and school nurse to provide additional useful information to support these children. The psychology subject taken during the college can also be useful. Reading lots of materials to be more equipped is also helpful.

Children with disabilities, as mentioned, have their own pace of learning. This should be the foundation teachers should always remember when teaching them. Allow them enough space to learn things on their own clock. Provide learning materials that are attractive to them can help motivate them. Offer learning opportunities that they can engage in without feeling frustrated or left behind.

It will also be helpful if their classmates are supportive. Encourage other students to be cooperative, provide clear and simple instructions on how they can provide support, and always be appreciative of their efforts to help. You can assign simple tasks to the child's classmates. They can assist him in taking down lecture notes or making the child feel he/she is welcome to group activities. This can mean so much to the child.
Involve the child’s family in the journey to learning. Make plans with them. Make sure that you all look at the same goals for the child’s learning and development. Encourage them to participate in school activities where the child is a part of. Ask them about their observation of the child while at home. You can also provide learning suggestions that the family can do together. Report on the child’s progress and always sound positive.

While there can be frustrating times, remember that consistency is the key. Establish routines for the child and introduce new learnings one at a time. Always show and express appreciation of the child’s efforts and acknowledge his/her progress. Never tire of providing genuine concern and care to the child.

Helping these children with difficulties learn, even those things that seem regular to us, can definitely give us a sense of fulfillment as educators. This is something we can always treasure as we journey in the path of education which we are commissioned to do as teachers.

References:

