HELPING LEARNERS TO ENJOY LEARNING MATHEMATICS

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Mathematics is all around the corner. It can be seen in any place, situation, and in any form. People cannot escape from Mathematics. Therefore, must learn basic skills in this subject and must practice how to enjoy while learning.

Learning Mathematics is somewhat difficult in students’ standpoint, but teachers should help them appreciate learning this area of concentration. When students enjoy what they are doing, the chances of learning are higher. According to Boaler, “students learn Math best when they work on problems they enjoy, rather than exercises and drills they fear”. Indeed, teachers have to devise a plan to make students learn while enjoying the subject.

Now the question is: How do you help students learn Mathematics without being discouraged? Learning basic operations like addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division is the fundamental of all. After presenting the concept, give examples to support learning. Let students work on their notebooks by posting the given and call them to work on the board, so that each learner has the chance of solving the equation while their classmates are watching them. It can boost their confidence whenever they get the correct answer. If students are not participating on board work, continue encouraging them to show their solution. When the answer is incorrect, give them practice exercises at home so that learners have enough time to make up on their mistakes. In this way students will feel your support.

Another way to help children learn Mathematics without pressure is through peer tutoring or by asking some students to guide their classmates with learning difficulties
in solving problems. This situation allows students, who are struggling, to ask questions on their classmates which are not able to elevate during class discussion because they are feared. For example the way on how to convert fraction into decimal equivalent and vice versa and how to solve the Area. In this way, student who struggles can create bond on his peer tutor. As a result, the steps on how to solve problems and different ways to solve it are raised and clarified.

Teachers can also help students learn Mathematics when giving enough time to explain how the value of x can be solved. Let the students come to you during your free time. Make it as a casual conversation between you and the learner, so he can’t feel any pressure. When he is relaxed, then that is the time that you can ask question to know why he did not understand the lesson during class discussion. In this manner, student is comfortable to you and you can now adjust on his needs. You can also encourage them to attend remedial classes, so that learners have ample time to master the topic.

Doing the exercises and drills in a form of game is also one way to help learners enjoy Mathematics. Students like playing games because in this way their mind is challenged and the fact that there is a competition and a reward, it increases students’ performance. This act allows learners to give their utmost effort to show what they have learned.

Learning any subjects is easy when you know how to motivate learners to feel ease and comfort in the process of grasping knowledge and skills.
References:


Jo Boaler, Professor