HOW DOES A CHILD GET MOTIVATED?

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Knowing how a child learns is one focus of being a teacher. However, knowing what motivates a child to learn is also just as important and one that we need to take advantage of. This motivation—or lack thereof—reflects on the learner’s performance and eagerness. Hence, it is imperative that we, as educators, know the different types of students and how they respond to various motivational strategies.

Every child has his or her own way of being motivated. Some children are engaged in learning in a more straightforward manner. For example, compliant learners are students that often feel that it is their responsibility to do what they are told to do. Thus, they don’t really focus on how the lesson is delivered; rather, they focus on the instructions given. For these children, external rewards and validations don’t mean as much because they believe that it is in their part to perform well and oblige.

On the other hand, some children find internal rewards as their primary motivator. They are driven towards engagement through their personal satisfaction on learning new things and accumulating information. Therefore, unlike compliant learners, these students prefer organized and innovative ways to deliver the lessons. It is also important that you constantly feed them interesting and informative bits about the lesson to keep their attention.

Moreover, if there are students that rely on internal rewards for motivation, there are also some that value external rewards even more. For them, good grades, positive feedbacks, and occasional pats-on-the-back are more acceptable forms of validation. They tend to get even more focused and motivated when they frequently hear or receive
positive notes. However, because they value those feedbacks very much, negative ones can also hurt their motivation and can make them lose interest in learning. Teachers should always handle these students with extreme precaution and consideration.

All in all, all students are unique. Some can fit the classifications above; others may find motivation in different manners or by a combination of the classifications above. Nevertheless, it is important for teachers to determine the right approach in motivating the students. Not only can it affect their performance in class, but it can also lift their perspective towards education.

References:

