HOW SCIENCE SHOULD BE TAUGHT?

by:
Mary Grace N. Bamba
Teacher III, Limay Elementary School

“Science is a system of knowledge covering general truths”, as defined by Webster. Among the learning areas, most teachers find Science very difficult to teach. Small number of teachers would like to teach it. Some would say that teaching Science is expensive because it needs materials to be used in the delivery of the lesson unlike other subject which you may execute even by just using chalk. Concepts of Science are hard to teach compare to other learning areas. It requires mastery of subject matter. For others, Science may be complicated to teach. These are some of the reasons making Science difficult for them. This scenario will change if educators will know how Science should be taught in elementary. The willingness and acceptance of the teacher to teach Science is needed.

As defined by Dr. Rosalyn Yalon, a Noble Laureate in Medicine, science is… “not simply a collection of fact”. It is a discipline of thinking about rational solutions to problems after establishing the basic facts derived from observations.

Teaching Science is effortful. There is a need for some basic memorization of concepts; but memorization should be lessened since it pulls an end to the curiosity of the pupils and the chance to discover the natural world. Instead, Science should be interesting and fun for the pupils. Not every pupil finds Science engaging as other do. Integration of songs, games, role playing and incorporates popular cartoon characters in Science instructions will make it fun. Integration of video clips can be utilized, too in science teaching. Video clips strengthen the dramatization of events and concepts, visual demonstration or evidence of situation that is emotionally appealing (Champoux, 2001).
Make Science significant to the pupils. Getting the pupils engaged in learning science concepts are best learned by doing not mere rote memorizations. Reading textbooks is not enough to learn the facts; science teaching should be hands-on activities, which demand crucial thinking by pupils for minds-on. Science is a collaborative activity. Pupils should experience working in lab groups and conduct experiments with classes. Bring pupils in activities that encourage questioning. Science is not searching about answers; it is about asking questions about what is happening in natural world. Science teacher should not be in use with question and answer technique but rather push the learning of pupils by letting asking challenging question and let them tell what they think about the questions.

Science learning must be independent. Let them discover and figure out the concept for themselves. Lastly, since Science is everywhere, teach your students to be updated in the latest scientific discoveries and science news. Make Science a part of their life.

Science is a challenging subject to teach. Teachers should not be hesitant to teach it. Being a science teacher is like being a young scientist. You discover and impart knowledge about our natural world. For as long as you like and know how to teach Science there is nothing to be afraid of. With all these in mind, for sure you will find teaching Science a great experience in your life.
References:


https://doi.org/w.3402/meov19.24403
http://www.seenmagazine.us/Articles/Article-Detail/ArticleId/4932/What-Science-Should-We-Teach