IMPORTANCE OF CHARACTER EDUCATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

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“The first years of life are important because what happens in early childhood can matter in a lifetime.” (Harvard, 2009) The character or personality of a person now could be brought about on how that person grew up. Just like in storytelling, change the beginning of a story, then it could result to another ending. A child’s mental abilities started to develop in the first three to five years of their life and at the same time, he adapts moral values at this early stage too.

Children should learn in their early childhood appropriate behaviour, social skills and their boundary in dealing with older people than them. Apparently these things are not easily achieved due to distractions particularly the replacement of technology with human interactions. At early age, children are exposed with gadgets and social medias which both leads to one sided communication, evidently, there are no interactions

Character education has always been the foundation for lifelong learning. In the holistic development of a 21st century learner, every learning area promotes character development by having human interactions between their classmates and of course in communicating with the teacher. Is there a formula on how to reach their minds? In the best interest of the children, love and kindness are very powerful tools to help teachers connect with the kids. A lot of children do not get enough of it at home, and at the same time is more difficult to be a great parent if they are also struggling just to survive. Sometimes life isn’t fair but in school, a good teacher can level the playing field and offer the kids an equal chance.
It has always been a connotation that a child’s education starts at home. It is good if all children would acquire positive character education from home, because if not, it would easily be detected all the time that he stays in school. Teachers help children develop a character that they can take with in their lifetime. How is love, peacefulness, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control be taught? Always remember that there are a lot of little eyes looking up to you. Characters seen by children are the characters imparted to them. Walk your talk. Lead by example, the children will follow.

Generally speaking, the most significant value of education is best when used with a heart. A successful medical doctor for example is worthless without a character of a doctor who would serve his own people with integrity and compassion with his profession. These good character traits starts from early childhood when character building integrates in the objectives of a teacher. Martin Luther King once quoted, “Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true education.”

Reference:

Lecture Notes on Character Education for Early Childhood

Prepared by Roderick Motril Aguirre (PACAE Speaker on ECE International Seminar held in Baguio dated April 24-26, 2017)