IMPORTANCE OF THE USE OF MANIPULATIVES IN TEACHING MATHEMATICS

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One way to improve the achievement of students in mathematics is through the use of manipulatives, this is supported by Bay Jr. B.E. (2013) in his study “Integration of technology driven teaching strategies for enhancing mathematics”, wherein teaching does not solely rely in accessing a checklist of skills but rather in understanding the strategies to adopt with different learners.

Manipulatives use in mathematics are physical objects that are made to represent mathematical ideas that are abstract in form. Although manipulatives are here for years, many teachers are not using it. Instead they stick to the use of traditional approaches of teaching.

Siefert, D.M. (1998) believed that teachers should have a clear, logical plan of presentation. He/She should work out the essentials of the topic using manipulative skills. Careful organization of content helps the students to structure, hence, students clearly remember it. A useful principle in any instruction is to go from the KNOWN to UNKNOWN, from SIMPLE to COMPLEX, or from PARTS to a WHOLE.

The most significant aspects is to make students learn math using varied strategies or approaches and in order to gain the student focus likewise their attention, the teacher should be adequately prepared and fluent in his/her presentation and use various teaching aids and illustrations such as charts, transparencies, codes and even real objects during presentation.
Teachers must ensure that students spend much more time on practicing, hence, the background knowledge will be enrich as well as the skill. In addition, the student should know to apply suitable manipulative strategies to each kind of activity in order to get the best result. As (Willis, 1981) suggested that teachers play a significant role in building students manipulative skill; as it also focuses on the essence of lived experiences of the learners, “how it is that they experience what they experienced”.

The most effective way to teach an occupational skill is to demonstrate it. One of the two most essential teaching skill is the ability to demonstrate; the other is the ability to explain. Both are vital to the success of either an operation lesson or an information letter. Weaver and Cencil (2000) in APPLIED TEACHING TECHNIQUES.

References:
