NEVER TOO LATE

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Math is not a magic word when children hear this term. Instead, they are petrified, lose their energy, and even without doing anything they feel tired at once. Nobody knows when the exact era when Math intimidated school children was. Some research have revealed that Math Fear or Anxiety is passed along. There are also research establishing a connection between math anxiety and math achievement conducted with young adults (Ramirez, 2013). The common expressions "Math is hard" I don't like numbers"; "I am good in English, that is why I am poor in Math" are often heard from parents by kids who are asking them to assist their child in homework. Studies revealed that the young mind of a child can instill information that may instill in their memories. These words may leave the impression to kids that their parents are not good in Math but they are successful so why bother to be a Math enthusiast.

In school, most math teachers if not all tend to be labeled as "terror teachers" since the students already have a negative attitude towards the subject. Moreover, if teachers are not that fervent to have their learners achieved the mastery of the lesson in the most patient way they can, surely the fear for the subject is toughen. Admit it or not, most Math lessons are confided with the chalk-board discussion. Less interactive activities that may respond to the active nature of young learners. Worst, of children, are passive, they do not even ask questions because they are no longer interested to learn but are just concern to pass the subject.

The need to learn Math is undeniably important to practical life. It is just right and proper for every grader to master arithmetic, the fundamentals before they can proceed to a much higher level of skills. But then, before the lessons are introduced, they are
already thinking they cannot understand, they cannot make a good test score because it's Math.

As the famous adage said "prevention is better than cure", love for math must start from home. Parents must do the first encouragement to their children that there is nothing to be fear of Math. Not necessarily, they have to say it directly. But they can show it by teaching early math lessons like counting with fun and enthusiasm. The simple lesson of colors and shapes which are very engaging to children must be taught to them that these are math lessons only associated with English subject. They may tend to realize at an early age that Math is fun to learn. Teachers, on the other hand, must commit themselves to provide an engaging learning environment when Math is the lesson. The use of manipulatives, videos, and PowerPoint presentations are only a few strategic materials that may catch a student's interest and eventually like Math. And of course — to sustain—is the challenge for educators. To combat Math fear for kids, it must be a collaborative work both from home and school. Positive inputs will mean positive outputs.

It may be difficult to do, but it is not impossible. Let us build a community of Math loving learners and the fruit to be reaped in the future will be much sweeter. It is never too late!

References:

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