TEACHING YOUNG LEARNERS HOW TO READ AMIDST A GLOBAL HEALTH CRISIS

by:

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As we journey towards this New Normal, the most important consideration to focus on is how to provide the learners and bring in the quality education they deserve. With this pandemic, one of the challenges educators faced is finding ways to help their learners learn all the necessary skills required for them to develop and achieve to pass their current grade level, and more importantly the ability to read. At the primary level, especially in Grade 1, teaching students to learn letter sounds (phonics) and helping them to be able to distinguish even the smallest unit of sounds (phonemic awareness) in preparation for reading, is very essential.

But how to achieve this, is one of a vital question that needs to be answered and planned carefully. Some factors need to be concerned about to help this learner learn how to read this time of the pandemic.

Readiness, one of the basic and crucial factors to think sensibly. Since we are implementing blended learning, the readiness of the learners, teachers, and parents (as the partner of teachers in teaching students) to accept their duties and responsibilities in this new scheme is essential. As well as the different methods and strategies to be used and the availability of the gadgets and other digital devices of each learner, if this is not possible printed materials will be needed. Learners must be assessed first to distinguish their level of reading ability, after knowing this the teacher can now plan for the best activities that will suit learners' needs. Through video conferencing, text messages, group chat, and other means of communication, the teacher can assist and instruct the parents...
on how to help their children learn how to read, although this might be a challenging job for them through work’s collaboration this could be done with ease.

Encouragement is of the utmost importance too, everyone should be involved in this case, parents, teachers, and learners. Everyone should join hand in hand for the fulfillment of this project. The teacher’s role to motivate their young learners will help them to be more participative and cooperative with their parents as their parents teach them to read. Learners must understand that with the current situation right now learning at school is not possible. Thus, their parents with the assistance of their teachers will help them to read. Likewise, parents should wholeheartedly engage their time and effort to help their children to read in the absence of their teachers. Thus, continues encouragement through the form of rewards may help and motivate their children to do their assigned task.

Accessibility to the learners, the program that the teacher will utilize must be available to the learners. Whether it is through synchronous or asynchronous methods, teachers must take into consideration learner’s access to the technology. Reading materials for the learners may be prepared by the teacher using printed materials, videos, and also provide links to the online platform, whichever will be more accessible and appropriate to their needs.

Dedication in accomplishing this task is far more important. Teaching kids the fundamental skills in reading is not that easy, it’s not hard. It requires a lot of dedication, patience, and perseverance. Parents and teachers are in a battle right now as to how this teaching students to read will be achieved. Both have a major role to do, they must dedicate their time and effort for this to happen. Student’s dedication to doing their task also matters.

This pandemic has brought a lot of work and extra effort to the educational system to continue to bring in the quality education that each learner deserves. Teaching learners
how to read remotely during a pandemic will be a great challenge for the teachers, parents, and students. This task is not new, and not easy, but as we join hand in hand with a common purpose and goal everything will work well. Let us accept this with a positive heart and love towards our learners for us to battle with this with ease.

References:


