THE ESSENCE OF READING CORNERS

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Reading is one of the fundamental skills that should be developed in a child. Teachers need to establish a habit of reading to a learner in his or her early years so that other subsequent skills in learning will be developed with less struggle. As early as kindergarten, pupils are exposed to sound and letter recognition and storytelling which are advantageous on their part. During their elementary years, pupils are taught with reading selections and various literature to enhance comprehension and vocabulary.

As advocates of reading, it is one of our chief responsibilities to inculcate the value of reading to our pupils at their very young age. Even though promoting reading to pupils is crucial, teachers undeniably play a huge share in the development of reading skills in young children. One of the effective ways of developing such skill is to engage them in regular experience of book reading. Since youngsters can manifest curiosity and imagination at their age, they need to experience books, understand their contexts, and eventually put a good response to them. This will promote the pleasure as well as the value of reading in schools and later in life.

Since the stimulation of a child’s interest in reading and frequent child engagement in reading activities is significant, putting up a good reading corner in classrooms is very ideal. A well-structured classroom should have a place where pupils feel comfortable as they read their chosen books so they can appreciate what they are reading. It somehow becomes a challenge to teachers as it needs to have enough space for seating and movement so thorough planning in setting up reading corners is required.

Reading corners should be visually appealing to fascinate pupils and should contain a variety of books that are appropriate to their age and interests. Teachers may design the area with the use of colorful illustrations and decorated furniture to attract reading-eager pupils. It should
have proper lighting and ventilation so that there will be no barriers to reading comprehension. Books can be held by cabinets or can be hung on thin ropes tied on tables or bookshelves. In creating such a reading area, one is not delimited to unleash creativity and resourcefulness.

Setting up a good reading corner is not limited to books only. Papers, pencils, coloring materials, puzzles can also be included for writing, drawing, or coloring. Pupils should also develop a sense of ownership, responsibility, and accountability in maintaining the essence of the reading corner. Of course, new books and other reading materials should be provided from time to time to sustain the interest of the readers.

Producing quality readers is a very challenging task for teachers. However, by putting meaningful efforts in teaching the value of reading to pupils, one can come up with the very aim of every educational program intended for the youth. After all, teachers’ hard work and perseverance will never be wasted as we are leaving legacies and are living up with the slogan “Para Sa Bata, Para Sa Bayan.”

References:

Early Learning Furniture (2017). The Importance of Early Years Reading. Retrieved from https://www.earlylearningfurniture.co.uk/blog/the-importance-of-early-years-reading