THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EARLY LITERACY

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In an article posted at https://makewayforbooks.org/early-literacy/ entitled “Importance of Early Literacy”, 90% of brain growth takes place by age five. If children are given the opportunity of high-quality education by this age, they are 70% more likely to graduate high school.

However, in reality, access to early education is still a challenge to some families living below the poverty line. While it is true that the DSWD has Day Care program and the Kindergarten in public elementary schools are free, there are still parents who find it hard to send children to school.

Being an elementary teacher, I noticed that children struggling to read are the ones who are more likely to drop out. On the contrary, when children are able to read from an early age, they become better reads and better pupils as well.

With this in view, early reading experience therefore matters. Teachers should provide opportunities to build vocabulary and enrich the literacy of their learners. Unquestionably, supporting the development of reading skills ensures children’s success in school and life.

One may ask the question, what is our role then? Our mission is to give the schoolchildren the chance to read and succeed. Effective implementation of Every Child A Reading Program (ECARP) is one way to develop literacy. In addition, most teachers in the lower grades have already attended the Early Language Literacy and Numeracy (ELLN) trainings and seminars. Some have advanced courses like Developmentally
Appropriate Practices (DAP). By putting what we have learned into action, more children will have the advantage.

Moreover, as we are all-eyes on what is happening around, there are some pupils who perform unsatisfactory compared to others. They are what we call pupils-at-risk. They need more guidance. They need more care from us educators. For them to improve their performance, we have to extend extra miles. Remedial reading, remedial teaching, interventions and one-by-one close interaction must be done to catch them while they are still young.

Let us remember that teachers are change agents. And from the very beginning, if we can make them readers at their young ages, then early literacy is on its way.

References:

https://makewayforbooks.org/early-literacy/

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