TOO MUCH TEACHING, NOT ENOUGH LEARNING: TRAINING INDEPENDENT LEARNERS

by:

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When teachers almost do the talking, learners get bored, and less learning took place.

Gone are the days that education is heavily teacher-oriented. Nowadays, learners are the real stars and given the opportunities to shine on their own. Therefore, the more learners act and participate, the more learning occurs.

But it is easier said than done. With the complexity of the school system and the learners’ circumstances, engaging them in the learning process posit a relatively challenging task for the teachers, especially among public schools. Though there is no single formula for effective child-centered learning, the following strategies can be instrumental for achieving such:

1. Assign tasks or activities where learners excel on their own.

2. Use reinforcements and scaffolding to increase learners’ participation and motivation.

3. Use positive feedback and positive discipline.

4. Establish rapport with the learners and make them feel they belonged.

5. Give the learners a chance to be responsible in their learning choices.

6. Keep learners busy in doing tasks that sparked their interests.
7. Be open to learners on their progress and make self-assessment.

In the end, the most crucial issue that needs to be settled here is the teachers' misconception that learners cannot be successful on their own and cannot learn without teachers’ help. Though we are not discounting the fact that teachers play a vital role in educating the children, they can also be independent learners. So, embracing the teachers' roles as facilitators of learning and not feeders of knowledge help a lot in the gradual release of responsibilities.

Spoon-feeding will not help the children learn best but will only make them more dependent on the teachers. Lessening dependency is a job of a truly passionate teacher concerned about the long-term benefits of independent learning rather than the convenience of feeding everything to the learners. Teachers do not typically realize that having too dependent learners make the teaching jobs more tedious and toxic to some point. When learners can do things independently with little supervision, the easy transfer of learning and responsibility becomes feasible. Hence, at an early age, learners must be taught how to use effective learning strategies on their own advantage.

References: