TWO-FLAVOURED ICE CREAM

by:
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Imagine yourself being asked to choose between your two favourite ice creams. Hard, isn’t it? You cannot choose between rocky road and cookies and cream. What if you were given chance to enjoy both? It’s amazing, right?

There have been constant debates on whether Kindergarten should be focused on academics or social skills. Some say academics or knowledge is important, while some consider social skills as more important than the other. Our take-BOTH.

Social skills are important because children need to learn to get out of their shells and mingle with others. They need to realize that the world doesn’t revolve on their families alone. They need to be developed socially. They need to learn how to interact with others. It is important for a child to be socially smart. Even if he is intelligent, if he is not timid, problems may arise.

At an early age, he must also develop manners and good behaviour. He must learn how to act accordingly. He must develop proper grooming, simple sanitation, good manners and right conduct. In Japan, as early as pre-school, they are trained to pick up the trashes, sweep and mop the floor, clean the room and manage their own toiletries. They do simple chores, without the use of househelpers and nannies. In doing so, they become more independent and self-reliant.

Meanwhile, academic skills are also important to be developed at an early age. They need to learn the concept of colors, numbers and letters so it will not be hard for them to cope up when they reach Elementary grade level. Complex skills, however must be reserved for later years. Simple but core concepts like reading and counting must be instilled. This is done to achieve our goal of zero non-reader and zero non-numerates.

Even at an early age, academic skills are important. We cannot disregard academics because these skills must be mastered even at their foundation years. Otherwise, pupils will find it hard to excel and give their best.
Choosing what’s important between academic and social skills is like asking to select between your two favourite ice cream flavours. Why choose one when you can have both?

Social and academic skills are both needed to for a holistic development of a learner.

References:

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