UNDERSTANDING NINE-, TEN-, AND ELEVEN- YEAR OLD SCHOOL CHILDREN

by:

Jocelyn F. Acuña
Teacher III, Tipo Elementary School

In almost 5 years of teaching school age children, I have encountered different personalities and I must say that understanding their differences and being able to communicate with them is really what made me a better teacher.

At first, I found it very difficult to catch their attentions, their aspirations and their interest especially in dealing with their social needs. Most often, some teachers cannot understand what’s going on with their pupils, hence, misunderstanding lead to other problems aside from discipline and mischief related cases.

This led me to try to understand what is behind their needs so that I could help them and guide them. Predominantly the age from 9 to 12 are the age of wanting to belong to a group. They wanted to be in a group which they think will make them feel secured and they really belong. When they are not satisfied with this eagerness of being in a group, unconsciously, it is tragic when they feel left out, because this is the time that their peers may wield more influence over them than adults. As their teacher, it is crucial to accept this as an important phase in their behavioral development.

From my observation, these are the general characteristics of the child ages nine, ten, and eleven. Children in this age group needs strenuous physical activities. Their skeletal muscles are growing rapidly and require exercise. Active rough – and – tumble play is normal. Therefore, as a teacher we could make use of these characteristics into sports and other physical activities which will develop their physical agility and
flexibility like sports, scouting related activities even cooking may be an exciting activity for them.

While children in their age group have activities have prolonged interest span, don’t expect them to sit perfectly still during the entire lesson period without an opportunity to move around. As a teacher, understand that they are really active even while the classes are going on. You may control them, nevertheless, understand as well that this part of their stages of growth, so never get intimidated or even mad at them.

Children of these ages have increased interest in team play and organized games, a perfect avenue to be used as methods and strategies in teaching for better learning. By doing so, they could really experience the fun and joy of teaching and learning.

Memorizing is also a fun activity for most of these ages, so we could make use of this in teaching facts and data. They have lively imaginations and they love to take parts in role playing, dramatization and other activities where their creativity will be developed as well as their talents and skills in singing, acting, dancing.

As a whole, understanding them may not be easy at all, but always remember that we could only be an effective teacher if we are able to understand the level of each and every pupil and give them the best education they deserve in a way where they will experience the fun and joy and learning in an environment where the characteristics of their age are fully understood.
References:


Center for Disease Control and Prevention, (2016), Middle Childhood (9-11 years of age), retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/childdevelopment/positiveparenting/middle2.html