USEFUL TIPS IN TEACHING ADDITION SKILLS

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Many of us has been taught to combine groups of physical objects to learn how to add up. Counting our fingers and counting another set of fingers and add them all together is another way. This process has been used by many parents and teachers in teaching their children and students on how to add. While this has proven helpful many times, there are instances when this technique is not effective for others.

For example, a child who has short attention span may find it difficult to concentrate in one set, worse, to remember the count of one set before moving to the next set as addend. It is also possible that the objects used in the grouping may end in another group of objects. This might result to a wrong sum of the objects. Other unlikely incidents can happen that can affect the adding up process.

There are alternatives to teaching addition skills. One is simple drawings which is more useful to the process instead of grouping physical objects together. That is why there are ready made posters of drawings of three (3) apples combined with another five(5) apples and the drawing of the sum of eight(8) apples. Other colorful drawings are readied by the teacher to further give examples.

To present this technique in another way, jot tallies in a sheet of paper. Ask the students to guess how many tallies they will need to add to the given tallies to complete the given number of tallies. When the students arrived to the correct answer, allow them to draw the
tallies themselves. To finish with, ask the students to count how many tallies they have drawn altogether. This technique is much simpler to bringing together two (2) groups. This also lessen mechanical error and also helps students with poor focus. In addition, it encourages the student to understand the relationship between what the written sum actually represents and the reason why they are jotting a number of tallies.

Another technique is playing board games. This is not only a mathematical learning experience but an enjoyable hobby as well. Board games that require a counter to set moves encourage counting. If numbers are drawn on the board, the student is able to actually visualize the number, the count, and the skill of addition itself. While playing, however, make it a point to emphasize to the student to pay attention to the relationship between using board games and addition.

Addition printables and worksheets are also effective. Provide lots of practice to help students harness the addition skill and eventually perfect it. Provide simple worksheets and aim towards helping the students significantly improve their ability with addition.

References:

