WHAT IT TAKES TO BE AN EFFECTIVE TEACHER?

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Early childhood education is an educational system to prepare young children for formal schooling. A process of transition from home to a school environment. An environment that will holistically mold the learners, mind, heart, body, and soul.

As a Kindergarten teacher, the demand does not lie on the cognitive growth of the child alone instead of the child's ability to adapt and understand the concept of being a student and how to behave and learn in a classroom set-up.

Then, what does it takes to be an effective Kindergarten teacher?

Be passionate. A passionate teacher can move mountains and convert her imagination into reality. The inner desire of teaching a 5-year-old child is not a result of a 4year college education but the burning love for children and the concept of molding them to be ready for formal education.

Be patient. It is a fact that teaching 25 to 35 children in a public classroom will truly stretch your patience. At the beginning of the school year, the idea of separation anxiety will test a teacher on how to detach the child from her parent without reaching the endpoint of cruelty. As a kindergarten teacher, you will not focus on what to teach but also on how to teach the lesson while these learners are at the peak of their energy. Composure within a chaotic classroom situation is a picture of a teacher's patience.

Be Creative. A minimum requirement for a kindergarten teacher to be able to pass through the everyday struggle for instructional materials. It means that one must be resourceful enough to be able to mend the scarcity of materials and equipment in the
learning process. In a public-school scenario, we often hear teachers pulling out budgets from their own pockets to be able to deliver the most effective lesson and this requires instructional materials. Being creative means being resourceful as well.

Be Flexible. Teaching a 5-year-old child is unpredictable more so teaching 30 different minds will not assure your lesson to be delivered smoothly. Being flexible is a result of everyday training as we cope with different scenarios that come our way. To be flexible is to be able to adjust to the situation without prejudicing the needed lesson to be learned. We need to go with the flow of our learners and be able to lead them back to the topic needed to be learned on that day.

Be Respectful. We are models of good character. Our learners learn well with what they see through us. Showing courtesy to our learners will teach them that respect does not need to be among young ones to old ones but vice versa. This value needs not to be learned but to live with not just in three to six teaching hours but beyond. Respect is earned hard and the result of it will be delivered in a lifetime.

Be Energetic. Energy drives us to sustain our learners' attention. As a Kindergarten Teacher, it is expected of us to be able to dance, sing, and play with our learners. Seeing us do what they love to do will give them an everyday reason to prepare and be in school and the rain will never stop them to do so. Leaving personal problems behind and being ready in our daily lesson is a good point to remember.

Be Dedicated. Dedication is always the bottom point of being an effective teacher. A dedicated Kindergarten Teacher will conquer her own weakness and be able to find ways to grow and become an effective teacher. Being dedicated means enjoying the things you love to do.
References:

Teach Elementary. 2020. 6 Traits Of Effective Kindergarten Teachers - Teach Elementary. [online] Available at: <https://www.teachelementary.org/effective-teaching/6-traits-effective-kindergarten-teachers/> [Accessed 30 August 2020].