Lighting Children’s Passion

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Date: April 08. 2017

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Word count: 685

I strongly believe each child has very much potential in them, much more than we see and may understand. It is just matter of how we can guide and make them to blossom

to each of their best. This will be the teachers most important role and skill for the

students.

Therefore, teachers should understand their cognitive development level and

their characteristics. Especially for the preoperational stage of children, as they start to use

language I personally believe this age group of children start learning life experience in a

real form and it is very crucial to guide them with positive, encouraging, and fulfilling

hands-on experiences. I also think it is important that in a class of preoperational students,

teachers have to understand each child’s character, habit, likes and dislikes and their specific interests. As the cognitive development study shows each age group of student’s mental and intellectual development level and speed varies depending on their background and environment like family, parents, culture, friends, their living condition etc. Therefore to understand this right as well as how to react to them accordingly will be very essential as well. This group of children are easy to be distracted and therefore apply clear instructions to the children to easily understand and follow. They need concrete materials to touch and feel to develop the next learning steps. Teachers should be able to teach them on various activities drawing their most interest, fun and involvement with simple and easy subjects. Through demonstration, guided by CCQ and ICQ and constant repetition, children can be involved more naturally and actively in the learning process. Too much error corrections will rather discourage this age of children’s learning. For example, my 7 year old daughter is not really happy when I correct her math answer on the spot. I always try not to emphasize it when there are wrong answers but make sure to let her find out herself by asking similar questions. For example 7+1=8 while 1+7=8 too. She then most of time asks ‘mommy, oh this looks same, why did I not know?’. Children shall not feel it is a serious mistake or failure when they gave wrong answers. Also, as the children in this stage have no understanding of cause and effect, teachers should be very consistent with rules and the content of instruction, otherwise there will be problems to face. Teachers should think carefully before defining rules. As this stage of children have extrinsic motivation and are motivated by fun and interest, teachers have full responsibility for their learning experience and are very influential on students. Also as constructivist approach shows children can work with different cognitive level of students so that they learn from each other by communicating and exploring together. For example, in my daughter’s class, her teacher groups children a bit younger ones and older ones, advanced ones and less advanced ones and their cooperative impact is vey high. Also as the behaviorist approach suggests, they learn step by step with repetition and in an organized environment to achieve their goal. Children will eventually understand certain rules, concepts by repeating it and gain more security. As input approach shows teachers check carefully each child’s level and work with just a bit

more challenges. Being too ambitious to children could rather make them just drowned.

Teachers could apply those approaches in balanced and cooperative ways, this definitely requires teacher’s close attention and interest into students. Also creating a relaxed class atmosphere without anxiety and with great fun, will guide them and encourage them to the most natural exciting learning development.

Above all, as all the human beings do, preoperational stage of children do need our biggest love and care. Based on those principles, a good education can start. Children’s learning starts from home, school, friends, environment and even from their daily experience. If we truly understand the children, their differences and all the related characteristics, various learning methods, different approaches and ways how to react to it,

our role as teacher will be already much more successful and children’s learning will be

much more fun and fulfilling.