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ARTICLE

Composed Educational Output

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ABSTRACT

A well-balanced education is provided in US at all levels of schooling but at primary level, whether institutions are privately managed or controlled by the government, especial care is given relating two important aspects of human growth. These two aspects are: infusing knowledge as well as helping to develop adequate physical growth. Keeping all that in view, appropriate educational experiences are provided to the children especially at the primary level of schooling. A few facts, relating such developments, are unfolded here under.

Educational Growth

In order to maintain educational growth by providing actual experiences to the students, the following subjects are being taught to the children from age 6 to 10 at the middle school level. It helps them to conceive knowledge which is absolutely necessary to learn the facts relating the entire world as well as about their own country. Subjects like History, Geography, Social-studies and Mathematics are regularly taught to the kids at that small age to enlighten them about various aspects relating to human life. Language is also taught to strengthen their linguistic ability of speaking and writing as well.

Physical Development

Different activities involving various games are regularly organized each day in schools. Each primary class gets involved to take part in those activities. We shall discuss some of them here under at the appropriate place in the article. First, let us begin with educational activities.

Educational Activities

Language

English is the mother tongue of most of the children who come to school. One of the reasons to teach English is that students learn how to express their ideas in their mother tongue. It also helps them to be good in writing and expressing their feelings and ideas in English. It is to make students develop their thinking ability. When they learn to clarify meanings of sentences, they are involved in thinking

as they develop sentences that convey some meanings. It helps them to use the right and appropriate words and make them learn sentence formation. Besides, such small things like where to put a period, a question mark or exclamation, help developing their linguistic ability. With that they also learn new vocabulary and develop spelling skills. While working on spellings, students learn new vocabulary. While learning language, they also develop reading ability. In lower grades about fifteen to twenty spelling words are given every week. In addition to improve spellings, they are usually given three sentences. All children are required to read them slowly several times and then need to write them. This helps them cultivating attention and learn spellings in an interesting way.

Science & Mathematics

Mathematic is taught from Prekindergarten programs to junior classes and beyond. Small mathematics textbooks are used for students to learn the subject. Text usually includes visual and graphic illustrations to help children relate math to realistic situations. Graphics helps children to get interested in the subject and makes easy to understand.



Children enjoying during lunch-time. Several computers are seen in their background

Computers are regularly used at the primary level to reinforce the skills learned by children in the classroom. Children can also use computers to complete an assignment given. They also use computers for different purposes and areas of learning. Children usually use computers to revisit

concepts that are usually difficult for them to grasp. Through computers they have the opportunities to learn at their own pace. Mathematics class usually starts as posing a “Problem of the Day”. Students have their personal devices to work on the problem and try finding out answers of the problems. Then they also show all that to the teacher.

All such challenging experiences at primary level help students to think more deeply about the problems they are solving. When they are asked to explain the solutions, their imagination is involved. It helps them grow mentally, develops confidence and provides a firmer grasp of the key concepts during the learning processes. These are some of the basic skills that are taught in second grade.

Number and Operations

Developing an understanding of the base-10 numeration system and place-value concepts provided through Algebra. Developing quick recall of addition facts related subtraction, fluency with multi digit Addition and Subtraction and Measurement through Geometry are exposed. Money and Time, Fractions and Probability, and introduction to Multiplication and Division, all such concepts are taught in second grade. For every topic hands on manipulations are used until the concept is learned. Then children work with more abstract problems. Short manipulative problems are given to children to learn concrete issues. Some children understand better after using the manipulative. Children also use “Mountain Math” a daily math practice in class. The answers are reviewed right away to give them immediate feedback. Mountain Math is a series of questions ranging from fractions, addition, subtraction, time money, filling numbers on a number line, which are repeated every week. Repeated math problems give children better understanding of math concepts. Children are also given daily math homework.

In every lesson taught in math there are interdisciplinary connections and examples are used to teach mathematics. For example, using social studies, reading literature as a springboard for mathematical investigation is a useful way to introduce authentic problem-solving situations. This helps children to relate and connect math and real world. Students realize the importance of learning math to continue life in real world.

Handwriting

Handwriting is taught to help write legibly. Cursive writing starts from second grade. It helps students with motor skills as well.

Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R.)

D.E.A.R. is an interesting activity that all the children enjoy. At the end of day teacher announces D.E.A.R. time and all children pick a book from the class library. Usually fifteen minutes are given to

students. During D.E.A.R. time children have to follow strictly the rules and not normally permitted to get a drink of water or go to bathroom break. D.E.A.R. time develops love for reading in students.

Technology

Technology is provided to students at school. Children go to computer lab twice a week. In addition to that children have an access to computers in class also. Every class has at least three computers. The use of computer in class is to take comprehensive tests and to drill and practice math, science, social studies skills. Children are given assignments that have to be done using computer at home. Computers are used to do research on given topics. They can play games to practice spelling, math and other subjects.

Social Studies

Social studies is taught for many reasons. One of the main reasons is to help children to grow up to be good citizens. It is taught to develop nurture values. The material unfolded make students understand human interaction in the past, now and in the future. It helps building character and provides students with an understanding of their role as a citizen. It teaches them to take an active role in their future and the future of their country. Social Studies teaches functions and workings of government and of community. Teaching of Social studies is also leads to understand civic behavior such as voting. Students are taught patriotic songs and on Veterans' Day, they perform acts of that nature for the entire school. They also get invited and sing the songs for the local community. It gives them feelings of pride for their country and develop oneness with the community. They are taught about establishing order, providing security and managing conflict through the study of Social Studies. They are taught to take Pledge for America and are made aware of symbols of America, for example the flag, Statue of Liberty and what it stands for, National Bird, Natural and man-made icons. They are taught about National Holidays like Memorial Day, Thanksgiving Day. They also learn about leaders in history like Thurgood Marshall, Amelia Earhart, Harriet Tubman,

Other skills taught are reading maps, learning about world regions. They learn about seasons and climate. They are made aware of Land and Water resources. Hands on activities on how water and earth pollution happen and can be stopped are taught at an early age. Children learn about different cultures that are settled in United States and call the United States its home. It teaches about world cultures and to understand the nature of diversity. They also celebrate different cultures time to time. They also learn about how to earn and get income to purchase goods and services. They learn about free enterprises, importance of saving, and about where to live and work.

Science

Science is divided into three sections-- *Earth Science*, *Life Science* and *Physical Science*. In *Earth science* students are taught to be good stewards of the Earth and to shape the natural world wisely.

They are taught to observe and describe physical properties of natural sources of water, including streams, lakes and oceans and collect evidence of how rocks, soil and water help to make useful products. Children learn to describe and compare soil by size, texture and color. In *Life science* students learn about plants, seeds, seedlings, flowers, fruits, plant cycle and pollinators. In *Physical Science* students are taught about three types of matter, their properties and their uses.

Hands on activities and research work are given to children. They are also given opportunities to work on projects relating all the three sections of science. Once a year, children can participate in science fair and earn medals or financial award. These activities give children practical knowledge relating all the three branches of science.

Field Trips

Students are taken on field trips. Field trips are provided to enhance learning outside the classroom environment. Requirements for the field trip are that it has to have an educational objective. Children are required to bring a permission slip from their parents fulfilling all the requirements from taking children on field trips and releases school of any liabilities in case of some mishaps. One adult per ten children besides the teacher is asked to accompany on the class field trip. They are also required to bring a sack lunch. Students are required to stay with the parent in charge of the group. Field trips are usually to various museums like children's museum, science museum, health museum, arts museum, plays, planetarium or State Parks. Such trips are greatly awakening and are of great interest for the children.

Physical Education

Physical Education classes are held Monday through Friday for thirty minutes each day. Children are encouraged to exercise, learn sportsmanship and learn to take turns. Children participate in mileage club once a week. They can walk or run for half an hour. By doing this, their name goes on the five, ten, fifteen, twenty or higher miles category. At the end of a school year children receive an award for being in mileage club. Once a year children also have an opportunity to participate in "Steps for Students". It's a five kilometer race/ run which take place in Houston. School families and staff has to pay to register for "Steps for Students". Fraction of the money for registration comes back to benefit the school. Towards the end of the school year children have "Field Day". Children compete in different competitive sports like balloon race etc. They receive first, second third or participation ribbon. So every child feels like a winner. At this event parents set up a cooling station where they provide cold drinks to children.



Thus, all round development of children is aimed through actual experiences provided to the children from the very beginning, whether it is teaching a subject in science or arts. All that leads to enrich children's personality from the very beginning. Later on when they grow and reach higher stages of learning, things become not only clearer to them, but they also stay in their minds longer, giving them the full concept of the world around them as well as make them understand what is necessary for them to learn and live a decent life.

If all that could be done in some undeveloped countries in the field of

Children involved in physical exercise & games

education, they would not stay isolated from the other countries of the world that do a lot for their young minds sincerely and devotedly and such countries would also be recognized as developed ones.

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