

EFFECTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL TEACHING AND LEARNING

Suzana Grobelšek
Elementary School Sladki Vrh, Slovenia
suzana.grobelsek@gmail.com

Abstract:

I have decided for my contribution in the context of the thematic set of Leadership and Quality in Education, since I have been teaching at the same primary school for 26 years and I have been monitoring the development, changes, leadership and quality in primary education all that years and I have been actively involved in the process.

Because we live in a time when the only constant is a change, so also in education, therefore it is necessary that the approaches of the past are replaced with the current approaches. I was thinking about this by myself, and I think that it is something I am actually already doing, but now I'm doing this more targeted, consistent, because this is a demanding professional specific process, which has many elements. I have many years of experiences in my long practice and I have taught the lower levelling groups in Slovene and English, where many children are with special needs. We talk a lot about the advanced school systems in Europe and around the world, which have used a different philosophy of teaching and learning for many years, as we could understand formative assessment. I have always worked hard and I have tried to improve the achievements of pupils with special needs and that they are the equivalent in the teaching process, that are actively involved, and that they learn and teach to learn how to evaluate their own work according to criteria. I would like to present how the students in this process of learning now understand what they learn, why they learn and what they need to understand to be successful. With this I am also going to present mathematical and natural science literacy which I use at Slovene and English. I want to connect all this with a topic that I have found very important for the learning process – cultural heritage. In the article I want to present the importance of the cultural heritage of the Slovenian nation, what is the cultural heritage according to the theoretical starting points, what is the basic aim that we have followed with the students on this topic, awareness of all of our outstanding common cultural heritage, about values, about its social and development potential, and on the rights and obligations associated with heritage. This area I have chosen, because I believe that cultural heritage in our schools get a lot of attention, because students thus discover the most valuable Slovenian treasures and traditions, and so give life to cultural heritage. I also present some of the activities that I have used in my classes, where I have found students these activities enthusiastically carried out, and thus through them, realizing what an invaluable cultural heritage has our country Slovenia and to appreciate it. I have also plans for the next school year, that are adjusted to the activities on this topic to students with special needs, with learning difficulties and students with additional professional assistance, where the methods and forms will be different.

Next, I would like to present is how I incorporate the critical thinking and the skills of critical thinking into classes in the Slovene language.

And the last subject I want to include in this entirety is the problem that I most notice with pupils is certainly connected with a lifestyle that naturally affects their physical, mental and social health. Every day I can observe that the unhealthy way of life of primary school pupils is reflected in unhealthy spending of free time, lack of exercise and unhealthy diet, which leads to the fact that pupils have less learning success, very low self-esteem and do not interact with their peers and do not understand with their parents. Therefore, I believe and urge that the importance of educational processes on children's health, healthy nutrition during adulthood, nutrition in educational institutions, the importance of moving to education, is the important key in elementary school. I present an example of the practice how we educate in our school for a healthy lifestyle while at the same time encouraging responsibility for the natural environment, we are working on the promotion of healthy eating, as it is essential in the growth and development phase, we encourage motor development and the responsibilities of pupils and students for your own health and the point of all activities is mental health, nutrition and physical activities. In the conclusion, I will state how the pupils are aware of the importance of healthy eating, the positive effects of sufficient physical activities, and the fact that health is a value, due to the many activities offered at school.

Formal assessment, mathematical and natural science literacy, the importance of cultural heritage, critical thinking, movement, nutrition and health are currently topics that I intensively consider and integrate into my work, and I hope that with this I also teach more quality, and pupils learn better. I will present all of this in a complete picture through the examples in my practice.

Keywords: formative assessment, mathematical and natural science literacy, cultural heritage, critical thinking, movement, nutrition, health