

Educational Philosophy by Mrs. Chavez

In national educational models, institutional doctrines underestimate what children are capable of learning based on the underlying assumption that they are "too little to learn complex facts." Since there is a broad spectrum of learning capabilities, educational institutions gear instruction and curriculum for the "average child." However, when we set our goals to be average, we train our children to reach average with an underlying assumption that a child may not learn beyond their grade level.

Take note what Ellen G. White states in her book, *Testimonies for the Church*, "We are not to elevate our standard just a little above the world's standard, but we are to make the distinction decidedly apparent...Many teachers permit their minds to take too narrow and low a range. They don't keep the divine plan ever in view, but are fixing their eyes upon worldly models (White, 1948)."

Additionally, our perception of a child's inability to learn becomes their reality. The child may believe or even subconsciously limit the acquisition of certain knowledge because of parents assumptions. On the other hand, you may agree with what the Bible says in Psalms 139: 14 states, "I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful." Therefore, if you truly believe this, then do what Jesus commanded the lame man to do, "...pick up your mat and walk!" Friends, let us walk by faith even in education, let us pick up our mat!

Furthermore, if we take a paradigm shift and look at education from a different perspective, a child will learn any information that is delivered to him in a caring manner. In other words by exposing children to above-average learning material and by modeling Jesus, only then have we broken the boundaries that national school models confines. Basically, if we look "out of the box," we may teach our children in a "Growth Mindset." In this way, we allow the gifts endowed by God to flourish.

It is, indeed, possible for a Kindergartener and First grade children to learn historical facts of the American Revolution, add and subtract three digit numbers with regrouping, read at the "Third-grade" level, skip count from 2's to 15's, and memorize myriads of Bible verses, even multiply and divide. These years are the most optimal period of time for memorization and applied facts to be stored in their minds for future retrieval.

Nevertheless, the key to helping your child learn complex material is two-fold, the delivery of the material and a child with a growth-mindset, just like a gardener tenderly caring for the garden making sure plants grow in good soil. Allow your child to grow in Christ here in this wonderful Kindergarten-First grade class.

That being said, as a Kindergarten-First grade teacher, I am passionate about educating your children in light of God's Word. Friends you have found a gem in the desert of education. Adventist Union School is what I like to say is the lily in the valley. Please support my mission by partnering with me for your precious child.

With Love, Mrs. Chavez,

your Kindergarten-First Grade Teacher

Reference:

White, E., 1948, *Testimonies For The Church*, pg. 146-147