

EFFECTIVE TEACHING IN A MULTI-GRADE CLASSROOM

By

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Definition of a multi-grade classroom

- ❖ Where students of different grade levels are taught by a single teacher
- ❖ Typically found in smaller schools operated by the churches
- ❖ History dates back to one-room schools in 1800s
- ❖ Diversion to single grades took place during the Industrial Revolution

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Typical Multi-Grade Classroom

- ❖ Grades 1-2
- ❖ Grades 3-4
- ❖ Grades 5-6
- ❖ Grades 7-8
- ❖ Or Grades 1-4, and 5-6,
- ❖ Or Grades 1-8

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Psychological Composition in MGC

Piagetian:

- ❖ Grades 1-2- Sensori-motor stage
- ❖ Grades 3-4-Concrete operational stage
- ❖ Grades 5-8-Formal operational stage

Vygotskian: developed a socio-cultural approach to cognitive development. Focuses on the value of teachers/parents on learners' cognitive development

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Jesus' Method

Mark 10: 13-16- “When Jesus Christ asked little children to come to him, he didn't say only rich children, or white children, or children with two-parent families, or children who didn't have a mental or physical handicap. He said, ‘Let all children come unto me.’” —Marian Wright Edelman. Jesus wasn't classing the children. He took them as they came and ministered to them.

Used stories, parables, Q&A, facilitation,
referencing

Luke 18:15-17

Matthew 19:14

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Biblical Method

- ❖ Joseph taught Jesus carpentry
- ❖ School of the prophets taught them in the field-cutting trees for lumber/building
- ❖ Israelites built alters as a sign for future generations
- ❖ Jesus wanted to spend time with children

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Differentiating Instruction

- ❖ Technology integration has proven to be an added advantage in facilitating instruction. One group could be doing a writing assignment, while another works on a constellation PowerPoint project.
- ❖ Allow learners to self-discover, and use technology creatively to achieve that goal
- ❖ Russell, 2012 stated “I’m really big into self-discovery,” DeGroot said. “The kids learn so much just by looking at a screen. What better place for them to discover than by themselves in a classroom.”

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Differentiating Instruction

- ❖ DeGroot works late many nights finding appropriate video snippets to incorporate into his PowerPoint presentations
- ❖ Examples of techno-useful snippets may be found on Google, YouTube, or other search engines
- ❖ A differentiated multi-grade classroom uses quality assignments to meet learners' needs

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Small Group Assignments

- ❖ Small groups provide an intentional learning environment, and hence beneficial to learners
- ❖ Multi-grades may form collaborative groups on some topics
- ❖ Help grow each other in perspective, as well as develop leadership/followership skills
- ❖ Students learn standards are not isolated but developmental (this creates reflection & expectancy)

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Results from Standardized Tests

- ❖ Schools' performance on ITBS tests and other state standardized tests
- ❖ Consider CognitiveGenesis report in line with Adventist education scores regionally
- ❖ CognitiveGenesis is a groundbreaking study that indicates that students in U.S. Adventist schools perform a half-grade level better than the national average. And the longer they attend, the greater their academic success (nad.org, 2007)

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Implications for Teachers

- ❖ Excellence in teaching/professionalism
- ❖ Putting God first and all these things getting added to the schools' needs
- ❖ Incorporating technology and scientific methods of instruction and learning
- ❖ Consultation with other professionals, conferences, and unions

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Observations from Educators in MGC

- ❖ What have we observed other teachers doing that has been successful in their classrooms?
- ❖ How do you provide qualitative/substantive instruction in your classrooms?
- ❖ Share your successful experiences in the multi-grade classrooms
- ❖ Create a brief classroom scenario and share how you would teach the two grades

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Groups Share Experiences from Group Activity

Summarize the Group Findings

Give a Charge to Teachers to Go Boldly to their
Multi-Grade Classrooms

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- ⦿ Post a Lesson Plan to all Attendees of the Workshop
- ⦿ Post Group Activity Notes and Answers