

For students to learn and grow, it is important for their teachers, parents and family, peers, and future educators to understand the difference in development and learning.

Development is a process. It is what shows how much you've grown based on what you have learned as a person. Learning is the investment or gain of knowledge and skill. Therefore, to reach a high development, a student must be taught the proper knowledge that can be easily learned by children. For first grade students, development is an enormous part of what can push them harder and make them want to strive to do their greatest. First grade students get an awakening when entering the classroom. They are pushed harder because this is the time that they have to learn very real and important subjects. It's almost as if they are first starting college; it's just for five and six year olds. It's a new atmosphere that they have to be able to adjust to so their minds can develop properly.

Since the children are developing at all times, it is very important and crucial that teachers and parents understand the different types of the developments that their child will be going through when entering new grades. Students, along with their teachers, have jobs to become successful. To be successful, they must understand what helps them improve. The first is Cognitive Development. Cognitive Development has to do with thought processing. This means that during this development, students will be having to remember certain projects. This can include problem solving, memorization of products (mathematics), and decision making. The importance of cognitive learning and development is that this is where students are going to be tested the most, I believe. If you don't have cognitive development, there is no memorization, quick thought process, or decision making- which is needed in everyday life as a regular human

being. The second area of development is Socio-Emotional Development. This is the process in which a child's personality begins to come out. Students will all have different emotions, feelings, and attitudes. How a student expresses themselves will eventually show how they work in a classroom. For first grade students, personalities can be tested in various ways; how many friends a child has, how outspoken they are in class, how involved they are in the school activities, and what kind of work ethic they have. This seems to be the development area where parents are most of concern about or put this at the top of the "Development Areas List". This could be because no parent would want their child falling behind and/or being an outcast.

Educators and teachers can help students with this in multiple ways. For a first grade class, it's as simple as having group readings or activities that get all the students surrounded by different students each time. Students and children that are around other students often, I believe, have a higher and better chance of being more social and have a more positive attitude about learning and developing as a person. The last area of development is physical development. What's important about physical development in elementary students is that this is where their muscles are growing fast and they are learning how to do more physical activities. There are parents that are concerned with this area as well because their child could be a late bloomer, or possibly the biggest one in the class. But since it's physical, a child can become stronger and more active if they are involved in other activities. It's as simple as participating in a Physical Education class that can easily make a student feel better physically. Overall, the three areas are very important in their own way. To me, as an educator, I believe the first area of development will get a child the farthest in life. I think this is the most important one because memorization, problem solving, and "mind growing" will help a child in the long run.

Like I said before, every child is different in their own unique way. Whether it's their personality, ethnicity, gender, likes, dislikes, religion, etc. The list goes on and on. But how have these different individual well, differences come about? It can be because of how they were raised; what was taught as good and bad, how much money did the family have, and how social is the child? It could have to do with their Socio-Emotional Development, also. How they react to things, how sensitive they are, and how expressive they are. Individual Differences can affect the development and learning of a child. Depending on the social interactions, it can hurt a child's learning if they had to work in groups. If they aren't ever outside or do anything active, their physical development can be slower than other children's. It all just depends on the children themselves.

It is extremely important to take the differences of every child into consideration. Every child has a different way they have to be taught so it's easier for them to gain knowledge. As a future teacher to young children, it is important to make sure they get the proper knowledge, and it is very important to me that I find a "happy medium" way of teaching so that every student in my classroom has the ability to gain knowledge from every subject I teach. It is important to me that children not only grow in a classroom setting, but they grow as a person. With that being said, one-on-one time is very important to me. Back when I was in elementary school up to college, having meetings with my teachers was very helpful to me. It showed that they cared for myself and my education just as much as I did. Another thing that is a very important factor in being a teacher is being completely involved with a student's cultural background and family. This shows the care a teacher has for their students. Once a student sees how interested the teacher is in their personality, beliefs, and backgrounds, it can push them to do better in school.

Overall, teachers must take into consideration everything and anything about a child. Their differences is what makes them unique and the kind of person they are today. It is important that teachers focus on how a student can improve and become successful in the future. Without a teacher going out of their own way to help their students, it can be hard for those them to have belief in themselves; especially if they are young students.