

## **The Teacher Makes a Difference**

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Thanks to teachers who have made great impact in people's life. Dedicated teachers nurture the innovative potential in their learners, preparing them to step into a world full of uncertainties. Quality teaching by quality teachers can help shape learners success and make them true winners in life.

A teacher has great possibilities not only to inspire a student to greatness but more importantly, to dream of the many possibilities in that student's future. As a grandparent, parent, young person, doctor, lawyer, architect, or engineer we all know the role that teacher have had on truly making a difference in your life. Teachers are therefore a valuable asset in the lives of people and to national development. This places a great task on the shoulders of teachers.

What should we then do as teachers to continue making that a lasting impression on students in our care? Simple. For every child who says, 'I'm not smart enough', 'I don't get it', 'I can't make', etc, there should be a teacher who should always say, 'you can', 'you are even smatter', 'you will definitely get it', so believe in me. Such a teacher will do whatever it takes to encourage, motivate, challenge, engage, inspire and instill love for learning in his/her students.

The main responsibility of every teacher is to help children to build a better future. Guess how special teachers make difference in children inspiring them to become teachers, scientists, artists, architects, doctors, musicians, engineers, pastors, lawyers etc. It takes a very special person to be a teacher because teaching is more than a job, it is a calling.

There are good teachers, excellent teachers, superior teachers and great teachers. Fogarty, (1999) has this to say: The good teacher instructs; The excellent teacher invites; The superior teacher involves; The great teacher inspires. A teacher who makes a difference in children's life instructs and helps them to build their critical thinking skills, but not pour knowledge in children's mind; invites children to the classroom but not drive them away; involves children in every aspect of the teaching process but does not act as a sage on the stage; inspires children to learn but not discourage them.

If a teacher wants to make a difference in a child's life then he/she should be like teacher Lydia who has brought herself down to the level of her students. Teachers who want to make a difference in children's life should listen to a learner's message to the teacher.

As a teacher, try to reflect on the plea of these children. Can you be a teacher who makes school fun for learners; is seen as an expert in his/her field; is passionate and has knowledge of his/her subjects; lets his/her students believe in him/her; encourages his/her students; empowers his/her students; cares about his /her students; listens to his/her students; has a sense of humor; makes the class interesting; explains things clearly; sees each brain as unique; provides lifelong learning and always there for his/her students.

If your answer is YES then you are one of the teachers who can make a great difference in children's lives. Remember that, what teachers think, what teachers believe and what teachers do at each stage of a learner's life ultimately shapes the kind of learning that young learner gets. Every child deserves a future and it begins with you. **MAKE THE DIFFERENCE IN CHILDREN'S LIVES.**