

**METHODS OF
TEACHING PRIMARY SCHOOL
SCIENCE**

ROLE PLAY

Outline

- Description of Role Play
- Rationale
- Procedure
- Characteristics of Role play
- Roles of the teacher
- Guidelines for effective use of Role Play
- Advantages
- Disadvantages

Description

- Role playing is a teaching strategy that encourages students to express themselves freely by playing the roles of others as they perceive them.
- It is a technique of teaching and learning which requires some of the students to act the roles of the other characters in a given situation.
- It is an unrehearsed, informal dramatization in which learners spontaneously act out roles of a given character in a given situation.

Description

- It is an informal dramatization which deals with societal problems and issues.
- Role play is a partial simulation of reality which is not based on process per se but which is centred on play acting.
- Role playing is a teaching strategy that encouraged students to express themselves freely by playing the roles of others as they perceive them.

Rationale

- By acting out roles and seeing a single problem being acted out in several ways, participants in roleplaying could learn to adopt broader points of view and to consider various approaches to problems.

Procedure

- Select the topic or situation to be dramatised and discuss it with the class.
- Invite students and select the role for them to perform.
- Set the stage for the role play.
- Ask players to enact their respective roles in turn and ensure that there are no unnecessary interruptions.
- Ask non-players to observe the role play to evaluate the performance of others.
- Conduct a class discussion to bring out their issues.
- Summarise the main points

Characteristics of Role play

- Involves two or more actors/actresses
- Requires social or psychological roles written or implied
- Provides specification of roles and activities
- Scenario develops through the actions/behaviours of actors
- Actors constantly interpret one another's roles and actions
- Include briefing and debriefing sessions

Roles of the teacher

- Select the lesson or topic to be role-played
- Brief the class on the context of the roles to be played
- Call for volunteers for different roles to be performed
- Brief them on the characteristics to be role-played
- Tell the audience (class) the purpose of the role-playing and what they should look for.
- Set the stage with the help of the role-players
- Announce the readiness to start the drama and call on the actors/actresses to assume role the incident requires
- Assist the players when the need arises

Roles of the teacher

- See that order is maintained from the beginning to the end
- Analyze and discuss the performance after role playing with emphasis on how the role played by an individual may serve as an alternative to the solution of the real problem.
- NOTE: No individual player is criticized.

Guidelines for effective use of Role Play

- Each participant needs to study carefully the information he/she has been assigned
- All participants may be required to come together at one place and act their individual roles in an attempt to achieve the stated objectives
- A considerable of maturity is required of the participants
- The whole class should be assembled to discuss and analyze the whole process taking into account all the technical points raised
- The teacher has the responsibility to prepare, monitor and evaluate the exercise
- The teacher needs to have a clear and well-defined objectives of the exercise even if it is open-ended

Advantages

- It arouses student interest and motivates them to learn.
- It promotes/develops creativity in students
- It develops self confidence and control in students
- The students' language skills are developed
- It helps to break boredom by introducing variety
- It promotes interest and thereby learning
- It affords the individuals/students the opportunity to play individual roles
- It facilitates development of interpersonal skills
- It develops self-confidence and control in students

Advantages

- It promotes creativity and development of students imagination
- It enables the students to understand other people's opinions and views
- It is useful to provide a strong basis for discussion
- It is useful to provide students understanding of themselves and others and therefore provide the opportunity for behaviour change.

Disadvantages

- It is time consuming.
- Deviation can easily occur. It may end up as entertainment without any understanding.
- The emotions of students can be affected
- Full participation by the students is based on their academic performance so the weak ones may not be able to participate.
- If not well supervised learners may make a mess from the activity.

WHAT IS THE DRAMATIZATION METHOD OF TEACHING?

- The dramatization teaching method refers to a collection of teaching tools that include traditional drama techniques, such as improvisation, storytelling, role playing and games.
- A lot of emphasis is placed on engaging students through interactive activities
- A method of teaching in which a pupil puts into action the story or event he or she has heard or read.
- This may take the form of the role-playing, social-drama or improvised drama

WHAT IS THE DRAMATIZATION METHOD OF TEACHING?

Rationale

- Most children do not make any knowledge or experience their own until they test it by doing it

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