

. “Factors That Influence Learning”

Children & Learning Part II

By Dearly Ebony



Regardless of how educated and talented a teacher may be, one must understand that if a learner’s “survival needs” are not intact, it will be challenging for the learner to learn.

Let’s review Abraham Maslow’s “Hierarchy of Needs”

Maslow identifies lower needs that need to be met for higher needs can be met.

1. **Physiological Needs:** air, water, sleep, food
2. **Safety Needs:** secure home, secure family
3. **Love & Belongingness Needs:** healthy friendships, religious belonging, loving families, school clubs/organizations
4. **Esteem Needs:** feeling good about self
5. **Self-Actualization Needs:** realizing their potential ← Chances are if your students achieve the first four, they can now maximize their potential.

Ask yourself, “Are my learner’s lower needs being met?” If not, we must determine what we can do to motivate our learner **and, if possible,** assist them in meeting their basic needs. Each situation will be handled differently. However, here are some suggestions: *refer to the school counselor, find organizations they can qualify for, provide a leadership role in the classroom, etc.* This information should be part of your data when classifying your learners, as this influences their academic performance.

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