

Letters to the Editor

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MAIL: The Editor, New Straits Times, 31 Jc
FAX: 03-22823

> PRIMARY SCHOOL TUITION

Let them enjoy their childhood

I AM very puzzled by the stand taken by Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein regarding teachers giving tuition after classes. It is obvious that he is very annoyed with the teachers who do so.

Yet, why does the Education Ministry continue to give tuition vouchers to primary school pupils?

Doesn't this contradict the stand taken by the Education Minister? Or is he saying that it is all right for primary school teachers to give tuition to their pupils but not secondary school teachers?

The way I see it, tuition at the primary school level does more harm than good. If classes were smaller, teachers would be able to help pupils follow their lessons. These young learners should not have to spend long hours in school and then attend tuition classes.

Given a choice, I am sure no child would want to stay back after school

to attend tuition classes. Parents, teachers and even the Education Minister are all to blame for the tuition syndrome.

The UPSR exam for Year Six pupils is no big deal because, regardless of a pupil's results, he will be promoted to Form One. Perhaps, he won't be able to get into a premier school if his results were just average or poor. But so what? Good teachers are not necessarily only found in the premier schools. A lot also depends on the learner himself.

I believe that at the primary school level, there should be more emphasis on the joys of learning, rather than on cramming for exams.

If we subject young children to long hours of lessons, instead of letting them explore their own imagination and creativity, how can we expect them to develop into great men and women?

How can we expect them to think



It's been increasingly common for students to stay back after school for tuition.

out of the box when we do not allow them time to be themselves?

In conclusion, there should be no tuition or extra classes for primary school pupils. Teachers are not babysitters.

Parents, take your kids home and let them enjoy their childhood.

Excellent teachers should be sent to primary schools to ensure that these early years provide the foundation of excellence.

If a primary school pupil has been badly taught for six years, it would be

difficult for him to catch up in secondary school.

So if the Education Minister is serious about reforming the education system, he has to take a long hard look at what is happening in primary schools. Look for the root causes before discussing remedies.

For a start, why not discontinue the tuition voucher scheme for primary school pupils?

HELEN CHEW
Kuala Lumpur