

## **What makes a good teacher?**

Ask this question to 10 people and you will probably get 10 different answers! Potential answers may include care, humor and warmth; preparation, hard work and self-discipline; enthusiasm, leadership and speaking ability, etc.. However, would these qualities be enough? According to Slavin (2018), they wouldn't. Teachers must, probably, before everything else, know the subject matter and master teaching skills.

### **Knowing the Subject Matter**

The first thing a teacher must have is some knowledge or skills that the learner does not have; you must know the subject matter you plan to teach. We have all had a teacher who smart and knowledgeable in their field, but who could not teach. Eventually, as important knowledge is, it is not enough.

### **Mastering Teaching Skills**

Effective instruction is not a simple matter of one person with more knowledge transmitting that knowledge to another. Rather, effective instruction demands the use of many strategies, namely motivating students, managing the classroom, assessing prior knowledge, communicating ideas effectively, taking into account the characteristics of the learners, assessing learning outcomes, and reviewing information.

## The Intentional Teacher

Intentionality means doing things for a purpose. The intentional teacher is the one who plans, prepares, and takes dozens of decisions every hour. “Intentional teachers constantly think about the outcomes they want for their students and about how each decision they make moves children toward those outcomes” (Slavin, 2018, p. 6).

**Figure: Components of Good Teaching (Slavin, 2018, p. 6)**

