

I believe that every child deserves the chance to learn about the world around them and grow into who they are meant to be in an uplifting, warm, and safe environment. It is my desire as an educator to facilitate that exact environment for kids and to provide a strong educational foundation for children to build upon as they journey throughout higher education. There are three elements that I view as advantageous to building such a classroom environment: promoting compassion, respect, and kind words, motivating students in such a way that will last as they grow older, and allowing children to figure some things out for themselves – facilitate their learning.

As an elementary teacher, it will be easy to become frustrated with children because they do not know as much as we do or need more direction. I think it is vital to remember that little children look up to adults and model behavior, so teachers should behave impeccably well. We are helping shape children into who they will become. Only kind, positive words should be spoken in the classroom. Students should feel free to express themselves, and if educators can guarantee them a safe environment to do so, students will become more expressive, and will increase respect for themselves and others. Too often in higher education, students are afraid to ask questions for fear of being berated in front of their classmates. If all educators had this philosophy of providing a safe and uplifting environment, I truly believe that students would be more apt to gain knowledge and participate in class. I believe that educators should reprimand in private and maintain privacy as not to make anyone feel less than or to pump anyone up.

It is a well known fact that little children are normally full of energy and excitement. If educators can get children excited about learning, then I think that students will retain knowledge more easily because it is something they want to learn about. If children have this mindset

throughout their early years of education, then they also may be more likely to keep a positive and energetic attitude toward learning in their future education. In addition to keeping lessons exciting, it is important to inspire students' mindsets that they can do anything they put their mind to. Especially at a young age, adult's words have a huge impact on children. Therefore, I believe that educators should encourage students in learning through affirmation and positive reinforcement.

Everyone is born with a natural curiosity. This whimsical quality is extremely evident in young children, and I think that it is important to let children explore their surroundings to a certain extent. Especially during play, children need to learn how to handle situations on their own and learn how to use their own imaginations. Of course, an educator cannot be solely a facilitator in every aspect teaching, but there is a necessary balance. Children will learn to discover things for themselves when educators provide information as tools rather than presenting information without allowing room for self-discovery.

I believe that people should teach for reasons more than simply getting a paycheck. We should teach because we want others to have a fiery passion for learning, to love and always show kindness toward others, and to be a well-rounded individual that contributes to society. Teachers should teach not only to expand knowledge, but to help students grow into the people they will become. Being a teacher will be such an adventure, and I will strive to help my students learn and grow every day.