

Philosophy of Education

As a forthcoming educator, I believe that children are the future. Each individual child will impact the world in some unique way. As an educator I believe it is my job to guide each child in the appropriate direction, and to give them the knowledge, ability, confidence, and motivation to become critical thinking problem solvers. Ultimately, I hope my influence will encourage each student to contribute to the betterment of society. Nelson Mandela said it best when he said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." I will strive to "change the world" by teaching each student the value of education and instilling a love of learning in every student that enters my classroom. To accomplish this goal, I will establish a safe environment where each student has a sense of belonging, I will develop personal relationships with all students while maintaining respect for individuality and independence, and I will encourage success by giving each student the confidence to achieve eminent goals.

I believe that establishing a safe and supportive classroom is crucial for success in the classroom for both the students and the teacher. I feel that it is very important that each student feels that they are accepted and respected. One personal goal will be to learn as much about my students as possible. This knowledge will assist in building a positive classroom climate where students feel free to express themselves and explore independent learning facets. I will model desired peer behavior by treating all students equally, respectfully, and celebrating the differences in society. I will implement set rules that accommodate my students, and ensure that they are fair and attainable. It is vital that each student understands the importance of treating everyone the way he or she would like to be treated. With a safe and supportive classroom, students will feel comfortable sharing any personal problems with me, which in turn will develop

a sense of trust. Incorporating positive reinforcement, guided expectations, and a positive classroom culture into the classroom will lead students to grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

Once students feel as if my classroom is a safe environment, I will be able to develop personal relationships with each individual. Teacher-student relationships are important in the aspect of communication. When students are comfortable with the teacher it is easier for them to voice any complications they are having with the curriculum, discuss personal problems, and speak out about problems occurring at home or school that could be endangering their welfare. Being an educator is more than simply teaching students a set curriculum, it is also striving to be a caring adult in each student's life. Although it is sad to think about, teachers are often the only caring adult a child has in their life. I will create relationships with students by respecting each child and providing a non-judgmental environment. I will strive to make each student feel comfortable and accepted. When teachers successfully form positive relationships with students there is an elevated chance of the student feeling secure enough to explore academically and socially. Strong teacher-student relationships will develop vital skills for social-emotional development while acquiring concepts of academic expectations.

One of my main goals as a forthcoming educator is to instill a love of learning in my students. Far too many students have a negative image of school, and I strongly believe that a dedicated teacher can change the way a student views the learning process. I believe that every individual has the ability and the right to learn. I will be enthusiastic about teaching and be hopeful that my energy is contagious to my students. Teaching from the heart and being passionate about what I do will be a key factor in the way I will motivate my students to learn to

the best of their abilities. When students can clearly see the love for learning that I exemplify they will be motivated and find the content exciting as well. Once the students are engaged and motivated they will go beyond the minimum requirements and go the extra mile to meet expectations. Students who understand the importance of always putting forth their best efforts will be more likely to succeed in life and contribute to the betterment of society.

Being an educator is more than just the passing of information from a teacher to a student, it is important to empower the students in the process. Empowering students involves the building of self confidence in order to promote growth and learning. It is important that students understand how they can apply the knowledge to the real world and gain benefit from learning. Understanding the benefits of learning will help students to become successful in the real world and labor to be a better person. Allowing the students to be actively involved in the learning process will also allow them to feel empowered in the school environment. Students should be allowed to make choices and voice their opinions in relation to the learning experience. Incorporating this type of behavior will foster independence and leadership, which are important social skills to implement in the real world.

The more obvious role of a teacher is to provide the students with the basic knowledge needed to succeed in the world today. I plan to use organized intentional lesson planning to construct knowledge in my future classroom. I plan to use multiple instructional approaches to ensure students have an opportunity to learn the material in a way that they can best relate. It is important to understand the individual learning styles of each student as well as their strengths

and weaknesses. Making education an enlightening experience requires the student to continue learning and growing. Using these techniques I am sure to be moving in the right direction.

The Oxford dictionary defines education as an enlightening experience (“education,” 2010). As an educator my ultimate goal will be to create an enlightening experience. While building relationships, constructing knowledge, and empowering students it is important to remember the main objective is to assist in advancing our future by molding the individual student. To accomplish this goal, I will establish a safe environment where each student has a sense of belonging, I will develop personal relationships with all students while maintaining respect for individuality and independence, and I will encourage success by giving each student the confidence to achieve eminent goals. I look forward to many years of providing enlightening experiences for children inside my classroom.

References

Education. Def. 2. (2010) In Oxford Dictionary online (3rd ed.), Retrieved from
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