

Philosophy of Education By: Brittany Stephens

To me, the quality of a child's education is extremely important. I do not intend on taking the responsibility of providing the education of my own students lightly. I will put my very best effort into ensuring that each student that walks into my classroom, learns, achieves his or her goals, and has fun in the process.

I believe that if a student has any shot at retaining the lessons they are taught, they must be enjoyable to them. I will incorporate games into my lessons, try to make them relatable to everyday life, and attempt to do group work as often as possible. Games can make lessons seem fun and therefore the student is focused less on the work they are putting in, and more on the fun and excitement that comes along with the challenge. Making lessons relatable to everyday life will show students when the subject can be used on something outside of school. For example, if I make my own pretend currency and create a store in the classroom and give students a grocery list along with a budget, students will more likely want to learn how to count and add money because they will need to know how so that they can shop and stay within budget. Group work can allow students to work together as a team to learn and achieve goals. It also can help with social skills. Games and group work are things that provide an alternative learning experience and students tend to enjoy them.

The most important point I want to get across to my students, is that EVERYONE is capable of learning. Teachers should be aware of the diversity present from one child to the next. There will be students who come from different backgrounds, some will have their own way of learning, some may have disabilities, and some will have different ways they respond to lessons. I think that instructors should show students that however they learn is acceptable

and one person's way of learning may not be the best way for everyone. It is important to be aware of each student's individuality. As a teacher, I need to familiarize myself with each student's background and learning ability before they enter my classroom. I do not intend to teach many different lessons all at once, but I can adjust the lesson in different ways to fit the needs of different students.

Finally, focus is important in education. Students must understand that to get things accomplished, they have to work hard. Having a visual for students to reference throughout the school year so that they know when a lesson is complete and what comes next, is beneficial so they know there is no time to waste. With so much to achieve, behavior issues and distractions cannot be tolerated. Therefore, I think it is necessary to go over classroom rules and reiterate them periodically. Students also need to know why each rule is necessary and what consequences they face when breaking it. Following through on punishments is a vital part in providing students consequences and reasons to make better choices.

I know that things won't go as planned every single day. In fact, different circumstances will almost always throw a wrench in my plans. I think to provide a proper education for students, teachers must accept that things won't always go exactly as expected so being prepared and up for the challenge is necessary. Education is more than teachers teaching and students learning. It's tying shoes, car-line duty, spending money out of your own pocket for supplies, and staying after school to grade papers and prepare lesson plans. So many more responsibilities come with being a teacher than just teaching. Setting goals, staying busy to achieve them, being prepared to make necessary changes, and having fun in the process is the best way to provide a quality education.