The term “good teacher” is subjective, but for the most part, a good teacher is someone who follows all the rules of the domains in place. I hope to become an effective teacher, and to do that, I must stick to the following guidelines.

I believe that a teacher’s professionalism begins with themselves. A teacher’s sense of efficacy, the power to produce an effect or the ability to produce the desired result, is what determines the character of the teacher. If a teacher has a strong sense of efficacy, they go the extra mile and they have an “it’s up to me attitude”. A teacher must also be able to look at the effectiveness of what they’re teaching as well as how they’re teaching that subject. They must be able to plan and carry out those plans successfully. They must keep documentation of everything that goes on between them, the student, and the parents of that student. When contacting the guardians of their students, they need to be welcoming and respectful to all cultures represented in their classroom. They need to keep in touch and keep the parents updated with events happening in their classroom as well as personal aspects about their child so that the school/home relationship is strong.

I believe that a teacher’s curriculum should represent his or her classroom. For that to happen, a teacher must know about their students’ personal experiences as well as their past learning experiences. For a teacher to know what to teach, and how effective it will be, they need to know what the student has learned up to this point. Every individual is unique and what they experience growing up differs from child to child. It is the teacher’s responsibility to take that information and use it in their classroom effectively. If a child grows up in poverty, that will affect their brains and the way they learn, differently, from the child that grows up in a rich family.

I believe that a teacher should use different teaching models, methods, and strategies when it comes to helping a child understand the content. There should be a variety of activities inside the classroom such as teacher-directed activities to student-initiated activities. The methods and materials a teacher uses should go along with the goals of the lesson and be developmentally appropriate for the child participating. One of the most important aspects of this is that the teacher encourages each student to extend his or her own thinking.

I believe that a teacher should create a predictable and structured classroom environment with proper classroom management. The most important aspect to a teacher’s job, besides teaching, is building a relationship with his or her students. The social and emotional components of learning involve creating a fair environment, maintaining a relationship, communicating with each student, having consistent standards for behavior, and making the classroom safe for everyone who enters it. Fairness in this situation means helping all students to have access to learning and feel that they are equally valued in the classroom. Indicators of having a positive relationship with a student may include making eye contact and smiling. A teacher must remember that the expectations he or she has for a child directly effects that child’s performance. Classroom management is very important because children cannot learn in chaos. Using a positive yet stern tone and approach will ensure the discipline in the classroom to be successful. A teacher must also make the classroom conducive to learning, which means that the stage has been set for optimal learning to take place.

I believe that a teacher should use assessment strategies that reflect the goals of the lesson the students have learned. It is only through well-designed evaluation strategies that a teacher knows whether students have achieved the learning goals for the lesson and is able to plan further learning experiences. There should be a variety of evaluations used in a classroom because no one child is alike, nor do they learn things the same way. Evaluation strategies must be appropriate for the students since the goal of evaluation is to gather information about learning, the evaluations must allow a fair opportunity to all students to show what they know. Different methods include testing, peer evaluation, or group work. It is also important for a teacher to assess while he or she plans.

What someone else thinks the role of a teacher to be, could be different from what I define the role of a teacher to be. However, there are certain aspects in my opinion that aren’t up for argument, such as what professionalism is for a teacher, how the teacher should organize the curriculum, what teaching methods a teacher should use, what kind of classroom management works best in a classroom, and what assessments are most effective for evaluation.