

My Education Philosophy

A philosophy is a set of beliefs, to which an individual abides by and believes in. In the education world, there are several philosophies out there. Each philosophy contains a unique and different set of rules, expectations, and habits, and each educator has their own philosophy in which they use throughout their daily life in the classroom. The philosophy goes further than just the educator, for it influences the student's and classroom life as well.

Of all the philosophies of education, I believe that progressivism best reflects my own personal philosophy in the classroom. Some of the main points of this philosophy would be that the world is always changing and that people gain knowledge through events they go through. Progressivism is more child centered than it is subject centered, meaning that each lesson is tailored to each student's needs. In this philosophy, real world problems are given to the students to figure out, thus strengthening their problem solving skills. Also, progressivism encourages "empowerment for individuals and groups", meaning that students are introduced to teamwork which ultimately prepares them for their futures (Urban, W). All of these characteristics of progressivism are very important to me, as a future classroom teacher, because I believe each one serves an important purpose in the classroom.

I agree with these points because I feel they are very important things to have in an education setting. It is important to prepare children for working with others because once they have a career; they will have to work with others. Introducing that concept to them earlier prepares them for that. Giving real world examples helps students because it challenges them and prepares them for future obstacles they may encounter in life. Lastly, it is important for the lessons to be tailored to the students' needs because every student learns at a different pace and a different rate. By working with each student's learning pace, it helps prepare them for their

future and helps them succeed at a more accurate rate. There is one major point that I disagree with. It's not necessarily a point, rather an argument that some are pushing for this philosophy to have. That would be religion. An article that I read states, "Diatribes against 'godless progressivism'" (Setran, D. P.) This was the beginning to an explanation over the role that religion played in progressivism. I believe that religion should not play a role, not only for the sake of separation of church and state, but also because in your audience (student demographics) not every child is from a religious family, and you have to be sure to respect every student no matter their background or belief.

Based on my personal philosophy of education, as a teacher I hope to achieve a few personal goals of mine. Those goals would be to create a safe haven away from home where students can succeed in expanding their knowledge, and to also give students a comfortable, yet structured environment where they enjoy learning. I think it is important that the students feel confident in themselves, because if they don't, then they will never be willing to push themselves to learn. I also find it very important to introduce information through several different ways of teaching and activities, because not everyone learns the same way. Some students learn with hands on activities whereas others are auditory learners, and it is crucial to cover every learning style to the best of your abilities. By covering every learning style you will be giving every child a fair and equal opportunity to succeed and go far with their knowledge.

There have been a few major influences on my personal beliefs about education, the biggest impactor being my mother. My mom is a teacher, and has been my whole life. I grew up in a classroom and I spent nearly more time in my mom's classroom than I did at home. I helped her set it up and take everything down at the beginning and ending of each year. I observed her teach an after school program every year until I could drive myself home. She has told me about

things that have happened during the day with her students, and how it was handled. I also got to sit into a few lesson planning with her and her coworkers. My mom and her “team” (teachers who teach the same grade), are the ones who influenced me the most when it comes to my beliefs about education. They taught me that you can be kind and respectful to the students, while also disciplining them when needed, without the students thinking you are too harsh.

Based on my philosophy, progressivism, my ideal classroom would be student centered rather than subject centered. Physically, the desks will be arranged into groups of 4-5, depending on the class size. The grade I will be teaching will be third grade, so there will still be children decorations and the room will have plenty of color to it. I will hang up a cursive alphabet, a numeric timeline starting at negative twenty and continuing to positive one hundred, a chart telling what the daily activity is (PE, music, art, etc.), decorative and motivational posters, reminder posters (verbs, nouns, etc.), and a bulletin board showcasing their good work. Academically, I plan on tying in real life examples into the problems that I teach. For example, in writing, I will have them write about an experience that made them happy. I will also give group work and have them work on problems in pairs, and then compare the answers they came up with to an answer key. Culturally, everyone will be treated fairly and equally. I plan on teaching the class about other cultures. That will be done by each student sharing an important tradition their family does. A tradition ties in with one’s culture, thus teaching other’s about their culture.

As with all philosophies, progressivism will impact my students greatly. Some of the immediate benefits that the children will receive will be an increased interest in learning. This will happen because the problems I present to them will include things they are interested in and will also include things that they experience on an everyday level. Long term benefits that the

children will receive include learning to solve issues later on in life, and how to properly work in a group effectively without problems. This is because progressivism introduces everyday life problems to students to help prepare them for the real world. The students will be accustomed to group work because I will have them do it in my classroom, and by the end of the year they will be better at working together than they were prior to coming into my room.

A philosophy is a set of beliefs that one holds towards a subject. In the education world, there are a set of philosophies that impact not only the student but the teacher, the classroom set-up, and the lesson plans. My educational philosophy is progressivism because I agree with those beliefs more than I do the others. Progressivism is incorporated into my future classroom goals, classroom environments, and the benefits I wish my students to receive.

References

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