

I believe the purposes of education are to inspire, enlighten, and prepare children to take on the world. Education provides children with the proper knowledge and skills to reach every goal and dream they set for themselves. Education inspires children to aim big and not be afraid of what is out in the world. It prepares them not only in certain subject matter, but in ways that they can approach every circumstance with confidence in who they are and how smart they are. Education gives children the opportunity to obtain knowledge that can carry them through each step in their lives. I believe children learn best when they are ready to learn. Children are ready to learn whenever they can focus. They cannot focus if their basic needs are not being met. Children also learn best when they feel comfortable and safe in the environment. In order for children to reach their highest potential, they need a teacher that shows care for them and knows just how to intrigue them into the lesson. Children also need to be in a safe and welcoming atmosphere or classroom that makes learning fun. The curriculum of any classroom should include certain “basics” that contribute to children’s social, emotional, intellectual, and physical development. These basics are manners, communication skills, and coping with and handling emotions. Manners are very simple but vital tools that every child should have in their toolbox. Incorporating them into the curriculum at school and introducing them to children in elementary grades can contribute to their social development. Not every child is taught manners at home or even sees them in action outside of school, so teaching manners in school can certainly help shape children into great little humans. Communication skills are another basic concept that contributes to children’s social development. Teaching children not to interrupt, when and when not to speak, and how to speak to higher/older individuals are essential skills that they will need to know all throughout life. Emotions are a major part in a child’s development and teaching them how to deal with their feelings can contribute majorly to all four; social, emotional,

intellectual, and physical development. Teaching children why they feel a certain way and how to handle the emotion that they feel can assist them in maturing in every aspect. We feel emotion constantly and it is something that you cannot get rid of. Teaching children about emotions in school can help them grow in all areas of their lives, including in the classroom. Children learn best in an environment that promotes learning. Features of a good learning environment are alternative seating, multiple methods of instruction, and a bright, welcoming atmosphere. Having more than one option of seating can help the children and make the learning more fun, which causes them to stay more engaged. Traditional desk seating is not bad and is needed during certain times like when taking a test or completing an assignment, but having a more comfortable option during lecture or reading time, such as beanbag chairs, makes the classroom more open. Multiple methods of instruction mean that the teacher does not only stand and lecture and then watch the children complete their assignment. Approaching each lesson in a different way keeps the children tuned in and active. Sitting down and having the children gather around during language arts, using the whiteboard and walking around during math, and using videos on the smartboard during science each use a different method of instruction. A bright and welcoming atmosphere makes the children feel safe and wanted, and like the teacher is just as ready to learn as they are. Colorful posters, fun displays, and even showing off the children's work makes for a fun classroom. All children have certain needs that must be met if they are to grow and learn at their best. Some of these basic needs are love, security, proper nutrition, and proper clothing. If a child comes to school lacking any of those four needs, then they cannot perform at their best because their focus is on what they are lacking. It is only fair that a child with an empty stomach or cold feet in the winter only be expected to grow a certain amount because they are hungry and cold. They are unable to focus on school and grow as much as they would if those basic needs

had been met. The same applies for a child that receives little to no love or attention at home, or one that is scared to go home because dad will hit them. If a child feels worthless or is told they are worthless at home, then they feel like it is pointless to go to school and learn. I would meet these needs by making my classroom a safe haven for the children in a way that they know I love them, care for them, and want to see them succeed. I would make sure each child knows just how valuable they are and remind them each day that they are a difference maker. If possible, I would find a way to provide the children with a snack each day. The snack could be their reward for behaving well that day or achieving a certain educational goal. I would make my classroom be a comfortable atmosphere no matter the weather and do everything I possibly can to cancel out all bullying or judgmental attitudes. All teachers should have certain qualities. Qualities I think important for teaching are dependability, understanding, intelligence, good character, and compassion. Children should be able to depend on their teacher in both educational and personal ways. A teacher should be there for their students and care for them. Teachers are not supposed to know a child's personal background, but if a child wants to talk to their teacher about something, then the teacher should show understanding and trust. The teacher should not gossip about the child's life, and the teacher should respect the child and his or her privacy. Teachers need to be intelligent regarding what they are teaching. Teachers should take the time to research or look over a topic before teaching it to their class. If the teacher does not have much knowledge on the subject, then the students will have a hard time grasping it as well. I believe that teachers should have good character and compassion towards the children they are teaching. They must appreciate each student and believe that each student has great potential. No matter a child's background or behavior, teachers should be able to look past that and envision the future

each student has. Every single child has the power to become a strong, levelheaded, and bright individual with the help of a great teacher.