

Educational Philosophy

I believe that the purpose of education is to instill in children a love for learning and knowledge, and a desire to pursue the truth. I believe that children should be provided a safe and loving environment in which they can grow and form and develop that love for learning. My role as an educator is to encourage my students to ask questions, seek knowledge, and experience the world and everything in it for themselves. I will be a guide to my students and will help them to find themselves and their passions in a world full of so many different people and different opinions. I will instill in them certain knowledge that will be helpful to have in this society, and I will help them to use that knowledge to keep asking questions, keep learning, and keep searching for the truth.

I will encourage the sharing of cultures and diversity in my classroom. I believe that children should be exposed to all of the amazing traditions, languages, and beliefs that come from each unique culture. However, I also will help the students to realize that although each person is unique and comes from a unique background, we are all equal and we are all in this world together. Each individual is unique and amazing and I want to help my students see the value and dignity of each human person.

I believe that each child learns differently. Some children are more visual learners, some are auditory learners, and some are tactile learners. Some children have more of a natural affinity to using words, while others have a knack for organizing or sorting through numbers. Each child is unique and has been nurtured in a unique way. Because of this, I think it is important that I, as an educator, give my full attention to the way my students learn and interact in the classroom. The more I know and observe my students and attempt to understand them, the more I can help them to learn and grow in the ways that are most beneficial for them. I intend to get to know each of my students, their strengths and their weaknesses, and to help

them to understand the way that they learn so that they can discover the love for learning and experiencing new things that we all have inside of us.

I think classroom management is immensely important in creating an effective environment in which children can learn and grow. I will enforce rules and give consequences and rewards to based on effort, participation, and the responsibility of each child. However, I also want to create an environment where students can have the space and freedom to learn without being restricted. I think that at the elementary age, students should have plenty of time and space to move around, interact with different students, and pursue their interest when they have finished other assignments. I will always have supplemental activities ready for those students who have finished assignment and want to work ahead. That way they can continue to learn while staying at the same pace with the rest of the class. I plan to allow my students to sit where they can best learn, and not make them stay in an assigned seat all day.

I want students to be able to learn about things that interest them. Although many schools require a certain amount of essentialism to be taught in classrooms, I have a somewhat progressive approach to the way I teach, an approach fully supported by John Dewey. I want my students to be allowed to pursue their interests both in and out of the classroom. I think that students often can be a lot more responsible than we allow them. I intend to help each student to create some of their own curriculum using hands on learning. I think assessments are necessary and good inasmuch as they help educators and parents to understand where their students are at. However, I do not think that general assessments necessarily measure the intelligence of each child. I plan to use assessments to help me to see which children can be challenged even more, and which children need more help to understand themselves and their ways of learning.

I want each of my students to leave my classroom with a desire to keep learning and the belief that they are capable of anything that they put their minds to. I want them to know that they are all unique and that there are endless possibilities as to what they can do.

I want to bring global awareness into my classroom by allowing my students to experience different cultures and walks of life through videos, books, and activities. I believe that education starts in the home. Because of this, I want to develop relationships with all the parents and to help them understand what their child is learning and experiencing in the classroom. I want to help the parents to reinforce the each child's learning and pursuit of their passions in their own homes. I think it is important for parents to understand how to help their children learn and grow to love learning.

I will reach out to fellow colleagues to see what books and tools they are learning so that I can grow and find new ways to help my students. I will of course always be respectful and obedient to all administration, while also making sure that I express my opinions when I am able.