

My Philosophy of Education

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As old generations fade away and new generations develop, there is a factor in which almost all Americans have in common: education. Some people remember it unfavorably, while others believe it is the most important time in life. Although some think negatively towards education, it is a part of life that most have to go through. Because of this, I believe it is my job to make the education years as beneficial and memorable for my students as possible. To accomplish this goal, I will teach children what they need to know to become successful. They will not be forced to have similar interests, but instead, engage in individuality and independence. In the workforce, there are thousands of jobs where different skills are required. Because of this, I believe my students will focus on their own skills. In addition to that, I believe as an educator, it is my job to teach all aspects and qualities of each child. This includes social, emotional, mental, along with academic and cognitive. Not only am I preparing my students for adulthood, but I am also helping them become the best person they can be so they have the opportunity to live life to the fullest with the least amount of problems. With this philosophy, I believe I can give each of my students the skills to reach the joyful life each child deserves to live.

To incorporate my philosophy, I have many different strategies that I would use. One of the most important aspects of education is that basics must be first. Many times, teachers and coaches assume the children know more than they actually do. They teach difficult concepts and cause a large amount of confusion, which forces them to back-track and have to waste time. If students do not understand the basic concept, there is no way they can understand it when it is more complex. Along with that, if the concept does get more difficult and students get confused, it is fine if the teacher goes back to the basics to help clarify the concept. For example, children

cannot learn how to multiply before they can add and subtract. Once they learn to add and subtract, they might have difficulties multiplying, so it is okay to go back and remind them how the numbers work with addition and subtraction, then incorporate multiplication to that.

After teaching the basics, it is easier to pick out the strengths and weaknesses of the students. If a child is struggling with a concept, I believe it is important to merge some of the child's strengths in that assignment. That will make it less likely for the child to get stressed out and quit trying. A great example of this is word problems. A child might be bad at math when looking at the problem, but a great reader. If a child is not very good at  $2 + 2$ , then they can do word problems such as, *Donny has two apples and two oranges, how many total fruits does he have?* This helps students to realize that they are good at something instead of thinking they are bad at it.

One thing I strongly believe in is working hard for what you want. People need to have goals in their lives and should not have everything handed to them. I believe my students will need to work hard at their assignments to get good grades and other privileges. I believe the satisfaction of achieving a goal after working very hard towards it is an amazing feeling and all students should have that feeling many times throughout the school year. To explain this further, a child may work very hard towards a fund raiser for a field trip. After receiving enough money for the field trip and enjoying himself, the child will feel great satisfaction after he worked so hard for it.

Because children spend so much time at school, I believe it is important to give them freedom and independence as much as possible. When I say this, I do not mean letting them run around and do whatever they want. I mean that they should be able to incorporate their interests and do projects of their choosing to learn concepts. If I teach a unit in the history book, I will let

the students choose the event they were most interested in and let them create something to show the class to outline the event in a fun, yet understandable way.

Lastly, it is extremely important to teach responsibility, time management, and organization, although they are not part of the curriculum. These concepts should be used throughout the day in different and fun ways to help children understand them. If they do not hang up their coats and snow pants, they will lose them. To teach them to be responsible for their belongings, I can make a game of it where whoever hangs their coats up for a whole week straight gets 10 minutes extra free time. Then I will explain how nice the room looks and how much easier it is to find their belongings when it is all hung up. They also will believe that the room looks nice and get cleanliness in their heads.

Altogether, I believe my philosophy is strong and structured. It will guide me to teach my students in the best way I can teach them. My classroom will be fun and relaxed, yet sophisticated and organized. It will be goal orientated and full of hard working students who want to succeed. It will incorporate interests and make learning fun and understandable in different ways for students who learn differently than others. As I teach lessons, I will base the material on teaching what my students need to know and in all aspects to make the lessons as beneficial as possible. Furthermore, it is important to keep in mind that this philosophy will change with experience and will not be as perfect as it seems on paper. My philosophy on education will be my guide for my beginning years of teaching and hopefully further on as I grow and mature as an educator.