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Educational Philosophy

Educating young minds is no small task and should be taken up with the greatest responsibility. Education serves many purposes: the acquisition and assessment of knowledge; the promotion of critical thinking; the teaching, encouragement, and acceptance of diversity; and the building of relationships with students and families. Students need to be acknowledged and accepted as individuals. It is not my job as an educator to change who my students are, but rather, to open their minds to new ideas, challenge them to question, and inspire them to believe in themselves. Children learn best when they feel safe to explore and experiment. I will create an environment that engages students in the process of learning. It is my goal to inspire students to learn independently, so I become the facilitator instead of the gatekeeper of knowledge.

Teaching is like a science experiment. A question should be posed. Students should be given background knowledge, investigate through observation and hands-on experiences, and analyze their results. Effective teaching strategies include: direct instruction, hands-on experiences, small group work, pair collaboration, and play. Not every learning strategy will work for every child. I will ensure my understanding of my students' learning styles; thereby, tailoring my activities, to guarantee each child learns the material effectively and has the opportunity to demonstrate their learning in multiple ways. I believe all children can learn if they are given the tools to succeed, by providing scaffolding to ensure my students continue to move through their zones of proximal development.

Instruction should be driven by data. Formative and summative assessments are most effective when they include multiple sources of evidence collected over time, so that informed judgments about specific actions are taken on behalf of the students in the classroom. Furthermore, content is the basis from which pedagogy is developed. Children should know the basics, such as reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics; while integrating science, social studies, music, art, physical education, health, and foreign language. Students should be taught life lessons, social issues, and how to think for themselves. I will teach my students to ask questions, consider other interpretations, avoid assumptions and bias, and use metacognition. This makes the focus of education is to develop the whole child, so students can be effective and meaningful members of society.

A further purpose of education is to teach and encourage the acceptance of diversity. In my classroom, I will create an environment where children can explore different cultures free from negative bias and stereotypes. I will create an environment where children feel pride in who they are and feel safe to share it with others. I will incorporate literature from around the world and discuss topics from multiple points of view. By doing this, I can help shape the future generation to eradicate the stereotypes embedded in our society.

I will get to know my students and their families both in and outside of the classroom. It is my goal as a teacher to create an environment that not only invites my students to learn and be consistently engaged, but also my families. Therefore, it is essential that I maintain a constant stream of communication between my families and myself. I will not only provide them with information about what is going on in my classroom, but also pertinent information that will benefit my families.

My philosophy boils down to one basic concept. Education must provide a gateway for children to become productive and successful members of society, while providing for the needs of diverse learners. By inspiring individuality, critical thinking, and strong foundational skills, student success changes from an expectation to a reality.