

Professional Teaching Credo

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Intro to Teaching

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Abstract:

Teaching requires a variety of unique philosophies that are instilled within one's self. Every teacher has his/her own beliefs and qualities that s/he chooses to use within his/her classroom. I believe that the best way to do this is to incorporate the philosophies of essentialism, existentialism, and progressivism. These philosophies will allow me to balance between knowledge, discipline, and individualism. Bringing all of these qualities as one will help me make a comfortable and welcoming environment for every student.

Teaching Credo:

George Evans once said, "Every student can learn, just not on the same day, or the same way" (Educational Quotes, 2008). Teaching is one of the most exciting and rewarding professions that one can encounter. Teachers watch a young, mystified mind, grow and develop into a respectful and courageous adult. To me, being a part of this process would be one of the greatest rewards I could receive. Every child has his or her own unique way of learning, therefore teachers must be able to create new and exciting ways to help a child grow and develop. My goal as a teacher is to fulfill all the needs of children by incorporating a variety of teaching methods into my classroom.

I believe that my classroom's environment needs to be accepting to every child that may enter. I also realize that no student has the same qualities as the next, nor does s/he possess the same learning abilities. As a teacher I must be able to adjust and flex my skills in such ways that every student is able to succeed. Knowing this enables me to incorporate a variety of philosophies to meet every child's needs.

Essentialism is one of the most important philosophies that I will stress as a teacher. This philosophy is based on the essentials, or the basics. With every child perfecting the basics skills such as math, reading, and writing, s/he will be able to gain more knowledge because this sets a foundation to learning. A child cannot learn additional knowledge if there is no base of knowledge already set. Essentialism not only teaches children the basic education skills of math, reading, and writing, but this also prepares them for the future by receiving skills in respect, hard work, and most importantly discipline.

Discipline is so important because without control of the students, a teacher will not receive the respect that s/he deserves, resulting in a poor work ethic from the children. To me, disciplining the students does not mean that a teacher is to yell and scream, but to enforce consequences when a situation arises. A teacher should start out very strict, acting on every situation that occurs, even the small situations, and slowly easing up. By doing this, a teacher will gain a great deal of respect from their students, which will create a stable environment. Without the respect of the students, a teacher cannot control his/her students, resulting in total chaos of a classroom. Gaining respect gives a teacher power over the classroom as well as trust from the students.

Existentialism and progressivism are very closely related, helping children find who they really are. These philosophies focus on the student's interest rather than the academic regulations. Existentialism offers an individual a way of thinking about his/her own life, his/her own beliefs, and what makes him/her who they are. Teachers must allow their students time to find themselves and what they like and dislike. The input of what the students want, rather than what the academic standards suggest, involves the students more, resulting in greater

participation and a better understanding of the material. Therefore, teachers must allow this freedom of choice and provide them with material that will help them find themselves. As a teacher, I will focus on the success of the students, so in turn, they can focus on what interests them. All and all, having the attention of the students is a crucial part of teaching, as well as a critical part of learning for the students.

Being a teacher is for those who want to change lives, who want to help develop the future, and who can encourage learning. Teaching is about making progress every day and giving students the opportunity to excel. I want to be that teacher that children look up to and feel that I am trustworthy. I want to be the teacher that gives a student advice that changes their life, or leads toward a goal that they thought could never be achieved. There is always that teacher that makes their class seem so entertaining, yet one learns so much; I want that to be my classroom.

Bibliography

*Educational Quotes*. (2008, January 12). Retrieved January 20, 2008, from Waypoint Corvallis:

[http://www.waypointcorvallis.com/education\\_quotes.htm](http://www.waypointcorvallis.com/education_quotes.htm)