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Philosophy of Education

I believe the purposes of education are to build knowledge about life and the world around us. It's also important for students to be culturally and ethnically aware and to build an understanding of respect for different cultures. If they work hard enough, the students can take what they have obtained to create a better future for their self and get a good job. Education is the key to success in the "grown-up" world.

I believe that children learn best when they are put in a variety of learning environments. Teachers must also use a variety of tools and teaching methods. Different learning environments include whole group, small group, partners, and independent learning. Visuals, manipulatives, and hands-on tools are also a plus. This gives students something to work with and a better understanding. How are we to inform students about the information they need to learn? Some methods are power points, guided instruction, discovery instruction, and lectures (which should be rarely used).

All children can learn but we must discover the way they learn best. This is where Gardner's Multiple Intelligences come into play. Whether if a child learns visual-spatial and intrapersonally or bodily kinesthetically and interpersonally, we as teachers must find a way to bring those talents out. When that is done a child will be at his/her best and successful learning can take place. This will be done by teaching in different learning environments and teaching to reach different learning styles.

The curriculum of any classroom should include certain "basics" that contribute to children's social, emotional, intellectual, and physical development. These basics are language, math, social studies, science, art, P.E., music, and art. If all aren't offered at

schools where you are then try to incorporate them into other lessons. After going through methods block, I am proof that it is possible to incorporate and to have time for social studies and science. It's important if students are going to get a well-rounded education. The most important thing to remember is to incorporate without overwhelming. Do what you can in an appropriate time manner.

Children learn best in an environment that promotes learning. Feature of a good learning environment are learning centers, a library, computers, and a suggestion/question box. Learning centers are very important. It's a chance for students to discover on their own and with guidance. These centers also give students a chance to work outside of the typical classroom settings, which is sitting in a desk doing work all day. Every classroom should have a small library for independent reading to be encouraged. A few computers should also be handy for AR tests, internet research, and basic typing needs. No classroom can be complete without a suggestion/question box. I like to know what the students are thinking and how I'm doing as a teacher. Sometimes, it's hard for people to approach others because of embarrassment and/or fear. Having this box will help keep questions, comments, and concerns confidential and at my attention.

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 praise, guidance, dependability, physical and mental exercise, and respect. Most importantly is to meet the child's safety and well being.

I would meet these needs by encouragement and praise but not by overdoing it. It doesn't take much for students to get frustrated and then want to quit. It's important to

show support and let them know that mistakes are ok. “A mistake is the first step to learning.”

Being physically and mentally fit are the keys to success in the classroom and life. It's important to work the mind and the rest of the body as well. Physical exercise will help the students to be productive in the classroom by providing energy. Working the mind will increase working memory and overall positive thinking and health.

The only way a child will work for you is if you work for them. That's by showing respect and showing them that they can trust you. Let them know they have to give respect to get it. A teacher can show his/her expectations by being a great role model. Don't just tell them what not to do but let them know what they are supposed to do.

Safety and well being should always be first on a teacher's list. Students who are a danger to themselves and others should be removed from the class and taken care of as soon as possible. If a child is sick then a teacher should have Kleenex and hand-sanitizer on hand. The nurse's office is also available to further care. A teacher can make sure students are wearing appropriate attire for recess.

A teacher should have certain qualities. Qualities I think important for teaching are patience, trustworthiness, dependability, respectful, open-minded, culturally and ethnically aware, encouraging, determination, and the key to teaching which is flexibility. If a teacher has those characteristics, then he/she can take on any classroom.

Things are always changing in the world of education. It's important for a teacher to be ready to adapt and change with the times. Anything can happen throughout a school day so teachers need to be flexible and ready to go with the flow. They say teachers aren't supposed to be friends with students but some type of bond must develop for a

positive working atmosphere. This can be reached by a teacher showing understanding and compassion while keeping an open-mind. Only then will respect and trustworthiness develop.