My Professional Teaching Credo:

Emily Gallmeyer

Introduction to Teaching 111

Mrs. Eastman

Abstract:

I have grown up longing to help children to grow and develop to the best of their ability. To do this, I must express a variety of teaching styles. I believe the best the way to do this is by incorporating William C. Bagley's idea of essentialism, along with John Dewey's progressivism and Maxine Greene's existentialism. These philosophies will help to give a balance between knowledge and discipline, and individualism. Behaviorism founded by John B. Watson and B. F. Skinner will bring to classroom the notion of the reason of behavior along with observing these actions. Bringing all of these styles into my classroom will help make a balanced well-rounded environment for children.

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Henry Adams once said, “A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops” (Adams, 2004). Teaching is one of the most rewarding and satisfying professions that one can chose to obtain. For me, this profession has been a dream since I was a child myself. To help a child grow and develop, and for me to be a part of the process, would be the greatest reward possible. Teaching a child cannot be done in just one form. Educators must continuously work to find new and exciting ways for students to grow and develop. My goal as an educator is to help children grow into the best human being possible with all the knowledge and skills that is needed to become successful in life.

I believe that my classroom needs to be a place where children learn, grown and develop. Teachers need to remember that no student has the same quality as the next, nor do they possess the same learning abilities. In knowing this, I must conduct my class in such a way as to meet the needs of all students without hindering their learning. As a teacher, I feel incorporating a variety of philosophies into the classroom is one of my most important jobs as a teacher. Furthermore, by doing this, each child will find what appeals to them the most and how they benefit the greatest.

Essentialism is a very important philosophy for children because it sets the foundation of learning. It stresses the importance of children receiving the essential knowledge and basic skills, that they will use not only in school but also throughout their lives. By using essentialism children are prepared for their future not only by receiving basic skills such as reading, writing, and math, but also respect, hard work, and most importantly discipline. Respecting others is a way of life; there is no way of getting around it, and without these abilities success is not even an

option. These skills will be used throughout their whole lives. It is vital that it is instilled into children so that their future will be successful.

Existentialism and progressivism work tightly together to help bring the focus on the children. These philosophies help children to find who they really are, not what everyone wants them to be. I believe that helping a child find his or her true self allows them to be healthier students. If teachers focus on the wants and needs of the children, then the participation in the classroom will increase. If the subject is repetitive and unchanging it can cause students to get bored and uninterested in school. On the other hand, if the learners are interested in the subject matter, then they will be more excited to learn. However they will still be working at their own pace, while the teacher helps along the way. In turn, grades will improve. Another advantage is that these philosophies will give students the opportunity to make choices on their own, and will help them to learn from mistakes or achievements. As a teacher, I am not teaching for any other reason than for the students so why would I not take interest in what they like and who they really are.

Behaviorism stresses observable behavior. Therefore encouragement, praise, and support to students in the classroom are essential. Through this, a warm and inviting environment is formed which helps any student feel comforted. When students feel comfortable, in a setting they are able to relax and be themselves. This aids the teacher to see what reactions learners have to different activities and situations. Teachers need to always be monitoring student actions because it can tell a great deal about the students, such as if a problem has occurred, if something exciting is happening in his or her life, if the child is having a good or bad day, or many other options. A teacher can understand everything about his or her students, by taking the time to merely watch them.

These ideas all have their benefits and drawbacks; however, by using sections of each one a healthy, well-rounded classroom can be made for children. It is necessary for teachers to incorporate these ideas and integrated them into their teaching styles. By combining these necessary philosophies the outcome will not only benefit the children immensely in their schooling and lives, but more importantly their future to come.

Teaching calls people who truly love children, who want to change lives, and who want to be a part of developing the future. Teaching, to me, is that and so much more. I want to be able to go home every night and know that I am a role model, a leader, and an inspiration to young children. I want to be that teacher that children remember for years to come, as the one who changed their lives, or the one who gave them the inspiration to go on when they did not think they could. An unknown author expresses the main focus of teaching when he says, “To the world you might be one person, but to one person you might be the world” (Anonymous, 2007). Everyone has that one person that changes their life; I want to be that person for children.

Helping children to obtain all the knowledge and skills that they will need to grow into the best person possible is my aspiration for teaching. To do this, I will need to constantly find new and exciting way to execute my teaching, so that learners will find the fun in learning. There is no better thing than a child excited to learn new concepts and ideas. Children are like a blank canvas waiting to find their colors; I want to help them do this. I want to change the future one child at a time.

Bibliography

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