

Teaching Philosophy

Teaching is one of the most admirable professions someone can dedicate their life to. For some of the children in school, teachers are the only positive adult interaction they will have all day. It is a chance to truly impact many lives by opening their worlds up to new knowledge and a safe sanctuary.

Teaching and learning are both life-long ventures. If we stop striving to learn, we will become stagnant. As teachers, it is important to remember that our job as learners is never over. We should continue to better ourselves by learning new practices and strategies. By modeling our never-ending quest for knowledge for our students, we promote positive habits. The learning theory Constructivism posits that learning is an active, constructive process. I identify with this learning theory because I believe our students learn best while working with each other and completing projects together. It is vital that teachers work together in order to remain active learners, and we should encourage the students to do the same. (Constructivism 2016).

The list of qualities I would like to foster in my future students feels endless. I would love to create and/or nurture a love of learning in my students. My classroom will be rich in text and will provide many different areas for learning to occur. My passion for teaching will be evident in every interaction I have with the students. I want to be a source of encouragement for my class by helping them follow their interests and passions in order to grow in those avenues. I also want to see my students become critical thinkers. While teaching the core curriculum and state standards, I will urge them to think deeper. Making connections for the students between their daily lives and the material will help make the lesson meaningful to them.

A variety of teaching methods should be applied in every lesson to reach the various types of learners. It is important to utilize modeling, direct instruction, group work with scaffolding, and independent work appropriately in order to best reach every student. Students who are visual learners should be given the chance to watch a new skill as it is modeled for them. Students who learn best by doing will grasp the information when they are given the chance to do it themselves during group work with. I also believe students should take an active role in their learning, and it is best to keep

everyone as involved in the lesson as possible. This can be achieved by using choral responses, cloze reading, and on-going assessment throughout the lesson.

Classroom set up for successful learning is of utmost importance. Small group instruction should occur in a well-organized manner around worktables. Students should have a chance to get up and move around the room at appropriate times, which will help their attention and mood. Desks arrangements should be utilized to encourage group work and discussion, with every student having an unobstructed view of the front of the room. With this set up, students will have a chance to discuss the lesson and bounce ideas off one another. This also gives the teacher a chance to check for understanding. These methods will ensure that the variety of different learning styles have been addressed.

Assessment is a vital piece of instruction. It can appear in many different forms and should be used in an on-going manner throughout any lesson. Checking for understanding and making sure that every student in the classroom is grasping the knowledge is essential. Examples of on-going assessment that I would like to utilize in an elementary setting include the use of white boards, thumbs up/thumbs down, discuss with your partner, and raising hands if they agree/crossing arms if they do not. By conducting these assessments during a lesson, I will be able to identify any students who need clarification or reteaching.

What we put into the world will alter what we receive from the world. I believe in having a positive attitude and being kind, courteous, and supportive of everyone. This includes my future students, their families, and my future colleagues. By treating everyone fairly, in both decisions and actions, I will help foster new relationships while allowing current relationships to thrive and grow.

My teaching philosophy is full of love, support, and a passion for seeing my future students succeed. There is no one “perfect formula” for every student, but I believe that every child can flourish when taught by an educator who will truly take the time to get to know them. I cannot wait to be that educator someday.

REFERENCES:

Constructivism. (2016, September 8). Retrieved from <https://www.learning-theories.com/constructivism.html>.