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Educational Psychology

Philosophy of Education

The choice to become a teacher is not one to be taken lightly. Becoming a teacher is much more than ‘just a job,’ you will become your students guiding light in the world (at least while they are in your classroom).

A teacher will often times spends more time with a child than a child’s own parent’s do, meaning that every moment spent with a child is important. Teachers help to guide children in many ways. Teaching is not something that can be defined to just one subject; it applies to all aspects of a child’s life. One should not simply become a teacher because they believe that it will be a decent way to make a living. The choice to become a teacher should be one made out of passion and the love of teaching and being with children.

The basics of teaching begin with compassion. Everyone needs to be compassionate about the profession they go in to and a teacher with an obvious lack of passion will show. A good teacher must be a nurturing, confident, caring, determined, and optimistic individual. A teacher’s attitude will rub off on students and who wouldn’t want to walk into a classroom in which everyone seems cheerful with a smile on their face? When I imagine a world in which all teachers have passion and love their jobs I can see a much better society.

One main factor in determining a student’s success or failure is the environment in which they are being taught. A classroom should always be a warm and cheerful place where each and every student can feel safe and loved. A classroom should be decorated age appropriately, as well as stimulating. One thing that is always good to see in a classroom is the students work on display; whether it is a wall displaying kindergartener’s art projects or a wall celebrating high school student’s good grades, it is an important factor in making sure the classroom is inviting. Aside from looks, a student should always feel as though their classroom is a safe place; this does not only mean a place safe of physical harm, but also a place safe from the emotional damage of bullying and other negatives. Creating a room where each student respects and cares about the other students and their ideas will help to boost a child’s self-esteem. An environment in which students can build their confidence will be greatly beneficial to a child’s future. A student who feels as though his/her ideas are valued will go on to do great things in the world.

In order to make sure your classroom is a safe environment a certain code of conduct will need to be set into place and followed. Always have your classroom rules and expectations displayed on your classroom walls. Once rules are set in to place you must always follow. This allows students to realize you are serious and that no bullying or rule breaking of any kind will be tolerated. This will help make sure all your students feel safe to state their opinions.

In a classroom where a student feels comfortable sharing ideas or answering a question out loud much more learning will take place. All lessons need to be taught in a way that students of all different learning styles can understand and learn from. A teacher must switch up his/her teaching styles so that every student in the classroom is taking information from the lesson. One way to make sure your students are always learning and benefitting from your lessons is to set goals for your class. An effective teacher should always be setting goals for his/her students; goals pertaining to each lesson, daily goals, weekly goals, monthly goals, and even goals for the entire school year.

An effective teacher should not only be setting goals for his/her students, but also for themself. A teacher should constantly be evaluating themselves and their performance in the classroom. If a lesson was not taught well and that shows through student’s grades, the teacher should be thinking of a better way in which to teach the lesson. A teacher should always be asking themselves questions like ‘did I do that good?’ and ‘how can I do better?’ Self-reflection is a major part of being a good teacher. There are always ways in which a teacher can do better.

A teacher needs to find a way to connect lessons learned in the classroom to real life situations. Students (especial the older level ones) have trouble concentrating and retaining lessons if they find no way to relate it back to their ‘real’ lives. After all, isn’t school a tool to help students get ready to go out into the world?

Another effecting way of teaching is to always give students positive feedback. I have found this to be the area in which most teachers (shockingly) are lacking. If a student feels safe and brave enough to answer a question out loud then they should be rewarded with positive feedback. Even if the answer is incorrect, a teacher should answer with a positive constructive statement that opens the question back up in order for the right answer to be given.

A teacher’s main job is to facilitate learning as well as create an environment that makes a student feel safe and loved. A teacher needs to work with all the adults in a child’s life (other teachers, parents, staff, etc.) in order to understand the best way to teach each student so that they will learn. This will also set the example that communication is the key to success.

As a teacher I will always have a nurturing attitude. I will teach each student the way that I would love to see my own children taught. I will make sure that each and every student I come in contact with knows that they are special. I understand that a student’s home life is not always great and that coming into the classroom and interacting with me will be the highlight of their days. I understand some students dread the weekend and look forward to Monday mornings back at school with their comforting teacher. I will not only be there to teach and tutor each student, but I will be someone that they will feel safe confiding in, even in difficult situations. I will respect all of my students and expect them to do the same. I will take the time to get to know each and every one of the students in my classroom and show interest in them as individuals. I will teach and guide my students but leave room for them to learn and grow on their own. I will try my best to help all my students reach their personal goals in the classroom. I will break the barrier of diversity and make all my students respect themselves and each other. I will be there to boost my students’ confidence on days when they are feeling down, and make them smile on the days when they need it the most. Looking back, I cannot remember any teachers in particular who took extra time out to make me feel special and smart, and that is one main reason I want to become a teacher. I want to be that awesome teacher who they will always remember for making them feel special and smart.