

Philosophy of Teaching

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Introduction to Education

Mrs. Prussing

Becoming a teacher was something I never thought would happen to me. Although, switching majors to Education has been a great decision for me. I never saw myself becoming a teacher until I was a senior in high school. I was given an amazing opportunity to volunteer with a special education teacher for a semester. Having gone through that experience, that is when I realized teaching could potentially be the right path for me. Teaching is an extremely important aspect in everyone's lives whether you are the teacher or you are the student. The world needs teachers, without we would never know the things we know. Being in education courses this semester, I have learned a great amount of useful information that I can use within my classroom and the way I teach my students in the future.

When I tell people that I am majoring in Education, I instantly get a strange look such as they think I'm crazy for doing it. The statement I hear most when people are discussing Education as a major is, "How do you expect to live on that salary?". The salary isn't the only reason you should be working where you are. For me, money doesn't play a factor in why I want to be a teacher. Having the ability to help children learn important aspects in school subjects as well as life in general is very important to me. I want to have the opportunity to watch my students continue to grow and learn as they get older.

Teaching is a great profession but it's not always easy. Teaching comes along with frustration and challenges but as well as joy, laughter, and excitement. The only way students are going to learn want to learn is if the teacher gives them the proper motivation to do so. Motivation is a very important aspect for special education. Children with special needs need to have someone there to push them and tell them they are

going great because they struggle so much more than other students. For a general education setting, standing in the front of the room and telling them to read chapter and answers questions for the class isn't going to want to make them learn or motivate them to want to learn the material. As a teacher I need to be sure I am focusing on my students needs and make sure my lesson plans fit those needs. My students deserve all of my attention as well as my time.

My greatest goal when teaching is to challenge my students and watch them grow as the year goes on. I don't want to be the teacher that will tell them the correct answer every time. I want my students to work for it and critically think about what the correct answer is. Having students do this is more beneficial and will help them use their minds and find information in ways they did not know they could before.

Another important aspect I want to include in my classroom is the ability to use freedom of expression and creativity. I want my students to have the ability to show what they do and do not like. Also, realize the things they need to improve on and the things they are excelling at. This aspect is beneficial for the student as well as the teacher because once a teacher can visually see what each student is struggling with and excelling at, they can prepare instructions and future lesson plans to coordinate with each student's needs.

When teaching students I believe having group work is an important aspect. When students work together are able to teach each other and they will not be as timid to ask questions rather than if they were in large group. Having group work also allows the teacher to walk around and observe how the students interact with each other. This

strategy is also a fun way for students to learn about a specific topic rather than having students read and answer assigned chapter and questions.

Having a safe and organized environment within the classroom is also extremely important. A way to do this is be sure the classroom looks inviting. Be sure it's not too distracting and students will be able to focus and learn for example having things laying around on the floor such as papers is distracting for children. Keeping everything picked up off the floor and all the desks organized will make it easier for the teachers and students to focus on learning. A way to make the classroom safe for students to ask any question that comes to mind would be to respond to all questions with respect no matter what the question may have been. By showing your students respect, they will quickly learn how to show each other respect.

Overall, I believe teaching is the right path for me. Being able to teach and watch children grow each day is extremely rewarding. The best feeling is when you see a student finally understand something they have been struggling with for a long period of time. The look on that child's face is priceless. That is why I want to be a teacher. I want to influence the lives of children.

Works Cited

Kauchak, D. (2008). *Introduction to Teaching* (5th ed.). Pearson Education.