

Teaching Philosophy

By, Miranda Bender

As an educator, my main focus is my students. My goal is to teach children the curriculum through ways that they are interested in as well as what is important to know for life. I do this by bringing in group work, individual work, hands-on learning, projects and important themes while also teaching into the world community so that students can become active members of society. I believe that teaching is a lifelong learning process and new strategies must be used in order to keep learning up-to-date with the world around you. Teaching should not be focused on just getting the student to learn the material for a short period of time, but teaching it in an exciting way so that they will be able to embed the information into their brains for the rest of their lives. As a teacher it is my job to get my students ready for their futures as well as keep them active in their lives at the present time.

In my classroom I feel that it is important for the students to feel safe in their environment. By allowing the students to feel safe, they will be more interested and engaged in the learning process. Each student is unique but all need to have a secure and inspiring atmosphere so that each child can grow in all aspects of their lives. As the teacher, my goal is to push students to reach their fullest potential and I find that by providing them with this motivating atmosphere they can do that. I also believe that by giving students a safe environment they gain respect for both their teacher as well as their peers.

I believe that students learn more successfully when they are able to both hear the lesson as well as get actively involved. I find that by using many different types of grouping throughout the class time the students are all able to learn in a variety of ways so that they can learn and practice the skills being taught. Interaction is significant in the classroom so that the students are able to keep their interest in the lesson as well as practice their skills in different ways. Some of these ways include full class activities, group activities, partner activities and individual activities. It is vital to reach as many students in the classroom as possible. I go about doing this by presenting the concepts in different ways so that students can learn the lesson in a way that is most successful for them.

I find it important to allow the students to know each lesson's objectives so that they can embrace their learning in a personal way. Letting them understand the curriculum gets them motivated to want to learn and master the skills being taught to them. The best way for a student to get excited about learning is having a teacher who is just as excited about teaching the lessons. I believe that it is crucial for students to get a concrete education as well as work with someone who is there to help them with their own needs to learning. My biggest goal in my classroom is to interact with my students by showing them that learning can be fun and not just saying it but using my lessons to demonstrate it.

To me, teaching is not just a job, but also a passion. I enjoy each and every minute I am in the classroom teaching. I find that by working with my students I not only am able to increase their knowledge and skills but I also am able to learn from them. I learn from my students by listening to them talk. Children's minds want to stretch to their fullest ability and by asking many questions and gaining the answers they are able to learn in their own ways. I find that by watching my students get excited to learn I too am able to get more excited about teaching the lesson. I find it encouraging watching each student begin in the classroom and blossom into

stronger personalities and gain more knowledge about the things that are most important to them as well as the world around them.