

Philosophy of Education
Sarah Cochran

Children in the age group I will be teaching, EC-6, are beginning to find out who they are and it is important that they are given a secure, caring and stimulating atmosphere to explore, grow, and mature emotionally, intellectually, physically and socially. As a teacher it will be my hope to be able to provide the best environment possible for my students' to experience, explore, and learn all that they can.

I believe that learning is a concept and passion that students need to discover for themselves, with help and guidance from a teacher. A teacher's role is to guide, encourage, provide access to information, and to create an atmosphere that stimulates learning. It is a teacher's job to provide ways for the students to search and explore for answers. Guiding the learning of children can be a difficult task for a teacher. This is because students learn in a variety of different ways. Some students learn best by listening to lectures, others learn through discussions and talking with others, some learn best with a quiet atmosphere while reading and absorbing information on their own, while even still some learn best with pictures, diagrams, and demonstrations. Because of the variety of ways to learn a classroom setting can either encourage or inhibit a student's desire to learn. This is why it is important for a teacher to guide learning rather than dictate it. It is important that the environment supports each type of learning style and allows the students to explore how they learn best.

In order to be a successful teacher you must be able to connect with your students. In order to connect with your students you, as a teacher, need to do your own discovery and learning. You must learn about each child, and what goes on in their daily lives. Then you have the ability of connecting lessons to the things that are meaningful, important and relevant to one's life and interests. Connecting to a student's life will only increase their passion to learn and discover. I believe it is important to allow students to share with the class their thoughts and beliefs in order to teach the other students to listen to one another, to promote the development of love and respect for their classmates, and to help the student sharing gain confidence in themselves.

In my classroom I hope to have open-mindedness, where every student feels welcome and like they can share anything. I hope to give my students the freedom of the classroom to discover and learn on their own while providing guidance and direction when needed. There will be fair and consistent rules that are set from the very beginning, and an expectation that every student is capable of following the rules. There will be punishment's put in place for those who disrespect, or break the rules. There will be rewards for those that do not. I hope to help the students learn to respect themselves, others, and their environment.

As a teacher I hope to spark the discovery of learning in every child. I hope that by the end of every school year my students are not only smarter, but have a better sense of who they are and who they want to be. I hope to have sparked excitement for learning in each child. I hope that each child leaves my classroom feeling like their voice was heard, and that they are just as smart, respected, and loved as all of the other students in the classroom.

As for myself, I still have a lot to learn. I have not taught an actual classroom as of yet and my hopes and dreams of how I would like my classroom to be run may be unattainable. I am excited to learn from my experiences and from my students. I have a passion for teaching and working with young children, and I hope to be able to provide them everything they need in order to grow and prosper.