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Chapter 9: How will you create a classroom community?

“John Dewey asserted that the aim of education is to support the development of the skills and knowledge needed for responsible and caring participation in a democracy” (Koch). I want to be able to create a classroom where all the students feel welcomed and a part of the classroom. I would first promote voice; I would want each student to feel comfortable speaking up and having a say in every lesson, project, and activity we do in the classroom. A student input is very important to me because without them and their questions how am I supposed to know they understand the material? Secondly I would want each student to make friends within the classroom and get to know each student, you never know what each student, what each friend can provide in your life. Even at such a young at in kindergarten some kids need those close friends to talk to that are their age and understand those “rough times” they may be going through. Thirdly I would promote respect; I believe that would be on the top of the list when it comes to a classroom community. How are the kids supposed to feel comfortable and make friends when there is no respect given to them? Each student needs to learn to respect their fellow classmates, me as a teacher, as well as fellow faculty members. And last but not least one more important point for me would be individualizing the student as well as having them work together. I would want my students to learn how to work well with each other in group settings and projects such as centers. I will also aim to help individualize students each week, like star of the week. When picking out one student each week and sharing all about them and having everything be all about them they get this glow and happiness to them and it really can make or break a child’s confidence and individuality. If you stick them in a classroom all day without one question towards them or about them specifically the student can feel lost in a big blob of kids, kind of like a college lecture hall. You always think to yourself, does the professor even know I’m here? Those four key points are major points for me to build a community in my classroom. And those four points I will strive for when becoming a teacher.