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My Philosophy of Education:

When asked what my philosophy of education is, a lot comes to mind. I feel like the biggest part of being an educator is being involved and committed to your students as well as building a strong classroom community. You need to always be there for them, and offer extra help. You need to understand that some students in your classroom may never see their parents and you need to be there to help them with those situations that the parents aren’t there to help with. You also need to pay attention to every little detail, you never know what that tear really may be for.

One thing that really caught my attention in this class is the Powers of Project and Problems. I feel like the power of project is a great way to teach the kids lessons who are more hands on and visual learners. “Project based learning adds creativity and depth to a curriculum, promoting more meaningful learning than rote memorization or work sheet activities” (Koch 126). These lessons engage the students and have them work closely with fellow classmates in projects for each subject. “Projects can be designed for any subject area, and they often embrace concepts from several disciplines” (Koch 126). This teaching style really helps students who are hands on to catch on to the lessons being taught. Project based learning is usually self taught; the teacher will create the project then usually split the students up into groups in order for them to complete the assignment given and almost always results in the construction of something. “Projects are challenging for teachers because they require more time and more materials then the traditional lesson does. A project is a carefully planned and organized experience involving thoughtfully selected groups” (Koch 126). Now, “Problem based learning focuses on a problem, the solutions to which may take many different forms” (Koch 126). This is geared towards more learners who work better with their minds and process things well. This learning style focus more on a single problem and the result in the end may take many different forms. It solves many challenging problems and is very open ended. I feel like the project based learning would help the kindergarten students in my classroom better, they are at a younger age to where more hands on activities would help them succeed in the classroom. Even though more time and effort had to be put in by me, I am willing to do so in order for my students to succeed.

Another thing that caught my attention while in this class is the building a strong classroom community. 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.

Another thing that really sticks out to me would be preventing bullying in the classroom. The first thing to do to try and help prevent bullying in my classroom would be to teach my students about bullying and explain to them that when someone is bullied, whether it is with words or hitting it still hurts the person very much. In the book, TEACH it explains that, “successful teachers invite their students loves, languages, and cultures into the classroom” (Koch 190). There are several types of bullying; there is sexual harassment, verbal bullying, teasing, and cyber bullying. Every type of bullying is effective to students. “Half of America’s school-children report being bullied at least once a week, and ten thousand children nationwide report staying home from school once a month because of a bully” (Koch 192).

In conclusion I believe that the focus and dedication in the end is very important for the teacher to have. “While creating community in the classroom is an important deterrent to negative student behaviors, teachers cannot be everywhere” (Koch 192). So this means that it is your job to teach the students everything you can, and to give them your knowledge in order to help better them not only has students, but as people as well. I hope to be that teacher that can help other teachers in the area and grade level I am at. I want to be the go-to teacher and have knowledge of all that I have been taught in school.