

My Philosophy of Education

As I strive for a safe, nurturing, learning environment, I will adhere to five main principles; (a) a partnership is essential among students, families and community members to reflect and collaborate in student development, (b) diversity is embraced and respected, (c) meetings or other forms of communication are timely as parents advocate for their child, (d) hands-on learning will ignite aspirations where creative young minds will unfold inside and outside of the classroom and (e) teaching strategies are crafted based on individual social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development.

I value the partnership between parents and teachers. To support individualized learning needs, I will foster a learning environment crafted for unique interests, abilities, and needs. In order to further enhance a child's initiative, I anticipate that parents and teachers share their insights into the growth and development of each young student. Feedback on developmental observations made in the classroom and at home will strengthen my ability to create individualized learning strategies. As a teacher, I am expanding my professional development on an ongoing basis. Therefore, I will be able to share with parents and caregivers various educational resources and family support services, or other materials that are key to the development of their child. My goal is to provide activities to supplement learning from the classroom to home.

As I cultivate a social awareness in each student, I envision a vibrant community of learners. Because of this, I will invite parents and community members to share their cultural heritage, bringing further appreciation to students; thus, stretching and evolving their perceptions of the world around them. Just as Jane Addams at Hull House carved out learning opportunities for young minds by bringing in professionals in the arts and other areas, I will reach out to the community to establish special events for my students. Expert crafters, builders, and/or musicians and artists will be called upon to setup children's museum-like stations where students can explore individually and collaboratively while working on developmentally appropriate projects in the classroom. Through collaboration, a child's listening and negotiating skills will develop. Early establishment of good listening skills will help to create a more peaceful environment.

Communication is key to being a child's advocate. I will respond in timely manner to all requested meetings or concerns about the child. I encourage parents to communicate with me about any special needs of the child. Based on collaborative observations, we will determine the need to schedule an assessment screening for an IEP or other service.

Parents can expect feedback within the week or less of initial contact. Also, I encourage parent volunteering with the coordinated communication with the school office and me.

I envision innovative minds emerging from hands-on learning. I recognize the need for students to engage in physical activity and I acknowledge that the arts can enhance the process of learning. Animal and plant life will generally be studied and explored in an outdoor setting as well as physical play. Based on Howard Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences, I will plan learning strategies to address each one of these; musical, logical-mathematical, verbal-linguistic, bodily-kinesthetic, spatial, interpersonal, intrapersonal, naturalist, and existentialist abilities. My goal is to create an environment (inside and outside of the classroom) that is engaging with opportunities for creative and inventive learning experiences to stimulate a life-long love of learning. Constant individual observation will help me determine the best-suited goals for social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. The question of, "Why?" will be asked by me frequently as I will anticipate it being asked by my inquisitive learners.

The classroom environment acts as another teacher. I will strive to design learning and play spaces that will accommodate various needs and engage children in critical thinking and exploration. Every child will be given tools to support their path to discovery and bolster their self-confidence. With all of these things in mind, I hope to establish a collaborative learning strategy that spans from school to home.