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Educational Philosophy

I believe that a child's education takes teamwork; it truly takes a village. From early stages of infant development, through a student's college years, the student needs the support of people that care about them and want to help them succeed. A student will feel the support when everyone around them is encouraging them to do their best and helping them achieve their dreams. Working with family members, other staff members, and community agencies to help provide students with opportunities that will lead to their success is vital.

Within the classroom, it is important that my environment fits the needs of my students. We have to create environments in which a student feels safe and comfortable. It is through this environment that the student will develop confidence in themselves. The confidence to try new things, speak up to be heard, and learn from their challenges. I have to find some way to connect with each student to find what will motivate them and bring that confidence out.

Organization within the classroom is important to keep students engaged and looking forward to the next stage of the day. In my classroom, I have centers organized in very clear, concise ways in which everything is labeled with their place. Students have a cubby spot for their backpacks to go, labeled with their picture or symbol, and a place for their daily folders which they place in the morning and pick up in the afternoon. Our daily schedule is represented by picture cards in which the students can see what is happening next.

Communication is a key need for my classroom; both for the students and their families. I will communicate with families on a daily basis as to what the individual students did each day. By sending home a folder daily, it allows me to keep families informed and for them to ask me written questions. I am also completely open to having parent conferences and even having parents volunteer in my classroom, as long as it does not interfere with the lessons being taught. The students in my classroom are encouraged to 'use their words' and talk to their friends. Much like the works of Vygotsky, I believe that socialization is the key to students' learning.

I believe that my warm, inviting classroom will facilitate a caring environment in which students and family members feel comfortable and confident. I will meet the needs of each individual student by making personal connections with them and incorporating the things they like into our daily lessons. Even the most veteran teachers always have something more to learn. As I continue my formal education, I realize that the best education I can get is from those students and the family members that I interact with on daily basis.

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