

Kaila Wentz

EDU 200 01

Dr. Ghorbani

4/7/14

Pedagogical Philosophy Essay

I believe that early childhood education is one of the most valuable experiences a parent can give their child. For this reason, it is important for me, as a teacher, to take responsibility for my preparation and student learning.

All children have a unique learning style, and I believe teachers should differentiate learning based on the individual needs of the student. I'm a firm believer in Gartner's theory of multiple intelligences, as well as Maslow's Hierarchy of needs. I believe in teaching to the whole child, including meeting their educational, social, physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

A well thought out learning environment is also essential. I believe teachers need to first provide a safe and welcoming classroom. Secondly, teachers should provide an appropriately stimulating atmosphere to foster excitement and the love of learning. Under certain circumstances, teachers should allow for students to choose topics to study, which would enhance their learning and growth. Well planned, detailed lessons are necessary for effective teaching.

My personality lends itself to teach using thematic units and interdisciplinary/cross curricular teaching, which I believe is the best way to facilitate learning in the classroom. In my experience, learning is more fun and memorable when all aspects of the students' day are based upon the same topic. Incorporating themes into the curriculum through language arts, science,

art, snack, music, history and physical education helps students remember what they learned. It also gives children the opportunity to relate to prior experiences.

There are many ways to assess preschoolers, including observation, oral assessment, and conversation. In my opinion, the most effective assessment is interacting with the child through play experiences and conversation to evaluate what they have learned. I believe I need to review and evaluate my lesson plans to assess what the students learned in order to become a better teacher.

I will work to establish a professional work environment, while building relationships with my coworkers, parents, and students. I will use various forms of communication with parents, including message boards, parent letters, email, and other social media. I believe teachers should utilize community resources for field trips, guest speakers, and hands-on learning experiences outside the classroom. I will be a life-long learner and benefit from participating in continuing education.

In summary, I believe it is a teacher's responsibility to investigate how each child learns, and teach in a way that is beneficial to the child. I will strive for excellence in the classroom, and a positive attitude and learning environment. I believe I can make a difference in the life of each child!