

Belief Statement

Passionate, dedicated, and patient. Those are just a few words among many that describe what a teacher should be to not only be a teacher but a successful teacher. A successful teacher does not only teach students what is required but goes above and beyond to provide the students with the best education they are capable of providing. Also, whether a teacher is aware of it or not, the students look up to them. Teachers are role models. A teacher needs to know their students because if they do not know them then they will not be able to get through to them to teach them.

Furthermore, a teacher should never be afraid to tell a student they are not sure of something. They should tell the student they are not sure but they can find out together. I believe that a teacher, in the classroom, is learning just as much as the student is. This is because knowledge is not unchanged but instead constantly changing. With the rapidly growing technology and the world today, what children are expected to learn changes all the time. From the time I was in kindergarten to today's kindergarten classroom things that are required of the students have completely changed. It is almost like preschool is the new kindergarten and kindergarten is the new first grade and so on.

William James, the first American psychologist, said that teaching is like research and when it comes to research in the classroom you will usually find out what does not work and then in the future you can try and fix that by trying something new. A new teacher will not always know what will work in the classroom. Teachers need to be

open minded and be willing to try new things and if they see something is not working, try something new. Also, you should always start with the student's current skill level. If you start below that you will bore them and above that you will lose them. Just because a teacher is teaching first grade it does not mean that all the students are on a first grade level. A teacher needs to find a level that is appropriate for every student and see that the children that need extra help is getting it.

In addition, I feel that it is important for a teacher to not only make their students feel equal but to also make them feel like a family and take care of each other. These children are together for more than eight hours a day. In most cases the students see the teacher more than they see their own parents. The classroom in most cases is like a second home to children. If you have a class full of children that respect and love each other then you will have an easy environment to teach in.

Along with classroom environment, when it comes to children, no matter the age, if their mental and physical needs are not being met, they will not learn. I believe that all students want to learn. If a teacher has a student that comes to class distressed or hungry I believe that it is the teacher's job to get to the bottom of it and to help the student. If a teacher lets the student know that they care and will do their best to take care of their needs then they will feel safe and respect the teacher and want to do well in their class. If a teacher does not care then the student will not care.

One thing that all teachers should have an understanding about is that all students are different. Students learn things in many different ways and the background they come from makes a difference in the student. It is the teachers' duty to find a way to reach all the students while they are teaching. This is something the teacher should

try and figure out the first couple weeks of school. Students come from different home lives. This also affects the way the children learn. A teacher needs to teach students to dream, reach high and never give up. A teacher truly needs to believe that nothing is out of a students reach. This needs to be stressed because in most cases at home for students their parents did not attend college or even accomplished a lot in their life that the student will think this situation will be the same for them.

Even though, in the classroom, subjects such as math and reading are considered the most important for a student to learn I believe as a future teacher that teaching your students to be respectful and caring is just as important. If the students respect and care for each other and the teacher, then the classroom will have an atmosphere easy to learn in. When I was a student and I had a teacher that did not care if the students respect them or the other students it was hard for me to learn in that class, because students would talk and not pay attention and it made it hard for the students to learn. This is because the teacher is spending more time trying to get the students to calm down and listen rather than going on with what they are suppose to be teaching. So, I think that if the first week of school or even the first couple weeks of school the teacher spends this time getting her classroom in line and teaching the students to respect and care for each other then everything will fall into place throughout the year.

When it comes to classroom management, I would say that I would have to disagree with William Glasser. He believes that a teacher should let students find out things on their own. He believes that teachers should only be there for support and to help students make the right decisions. I fail to agree. I think that students need

structure. Not like sit in a chair, look at the board and never breathe a word structure. I think that children alone are lacking structure and routine in their everyday life that they need the structure in their school life to be able to adapt in the “real world.” I think that centers should be independent, but as for the classroom I think their needs to be structure and routine. Students want structure. If a teacher does not have routines for the students then it would be chaos and a lot of kids telling on each other.

In conclusion, there are numerous aspects to being a successful teacher. Teaching is not just transferring information from a textbook to a student and hoping it sticks or just a job where you will have your summers off, but instead a privilege to be apart of a students life to make a difference.