

# PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

## ~Roberta M. Smithsonian ~

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It is my belief that, through education, an individual will receive the vital skills and tools that are necessary to build a life that is successful and prosperous. Within an educational setting, students should be continually encouraged to solve problems similar to those they will encounter outside of school, and this instills in them the skills necessary to become flexible problem solvers in preparation for their adult lives. I believe that, as teachers, it is our duty to ensure that learning takes place in a safe, open, and supportive environment, so that students learn the important aspects of developing and fostering positive relationships with others.

My decision to pursue a career in teaching is due, in part, to my intrinsic desire to make a positive impact on the life of a child. Teaching is a noble and highly rewarding profession in which one is able to directly affect change in the lives of others, and I cannot think of a better way to contribute to the betterment of society. During my journey toward the realization of my dream of becoming a teacher, there have been many people who have helped me establish my career goals and objectives, including family members. I am a third generation teacher and have grown up in an environment in which education was considered paramount to my future success.

My teaching style can best be described as one that incorporates a diversity of teaching methodologies and techniques. I am a strong advocate of hands-on and minds-on learning because I understand that supplementing curriculum with a variety of activities is essential to the learning process. By enthusiastically engaging students in fascinating lessons and using strategies that address each child's learning style, I believe that students will achieve academic success and build the self-confidence to continue taking risks during the learning process. Learning occurs when a student is fully engaged in the process, makes a personal connection with the information taught, and applies the knowledge to a variety of experiences. When this occurs, the child is inspired to become engaged over and over again, make connections, and apply his or her knowledge.

I understand the importance of using instructional strategies that appropriately address the different learning styles and needs of students in order to become an effective educator. Consequently, it is extremely important to determine each child's dominant learning style and continually monitor each student's academic progress through a variety of assessments, in order to plan instruction that draws upon each child's strengths to improve academic development.

The talent to build meaningful relationships with my students and the determination to "go the extra mile" are two more of my strengths as a teacher. Through the development of a relationship that is honest, open, and respectful, students will know that I understand them and accept them as they are. I have made a commitment to working as hard as necessary and spending as much time as necessary to make students successful, both academically and emotionally.

To conclude, my goal as a teacher is to instill a passion for learning within my students while providing them with an educational environment that is encouraging and positive. I hope to provide the skills and tools necessary for success and foster the individual talents of each student, giving them the confidence to embrace their dreams and make them a reality. Students will look back on their time with me and remember me as a teacher who genuinely cared for their well-being. My peers will recall me as a professional who was always eager to participate and a mentor who actively contributed to the growth and development of the school community.