

NANCY DREW

PHILOSOPHY OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

“If a child can’t learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn.”

Ignacio ‘Nacho’ Estrada

My philosophy is based on the solid premise that education gives us the knowledge necessary to better understand our world and ourselves. As Ignacio Estrada so aptly puts it, teaching rarely serves its purpose if the student is unable to learn. Special education is the education of children with needs that are different from their peers. While the needs of each student in special education are diverse, they deserve a comprehensive education to meet their academic and personal needs. I decided to become a teacher because I wanted to help special education children and show them how to learn with both their mind and their heart. My goal is to make certain every child I encounter feel that they matter and have something wonderful to contribute.

Excellent special education teachers have the ability to really understand their students’ challenges at a deep level and experiment with different ways of teaching in order to find the method that works the best for each individual student. The effort it takes to understand students’ behavior and change instruction as a result, is extremely gratifying and fulfilling, as I get to see my students progress and achieve success that they never thought possible.

Throughout my career, I have seen first-hand the many challenges faced when helping students overcome obstacles to their intellectual growth, social emotional development and academic well-being. I understand the challenges children with special needs experience and, therefore, value educating the whole child. I desire to be the person who can help all children succeed, regardless of their learning abilities. I believe every child is special, has unlimited potential, and with the right nurturing and guidance, can achieve his or her hopes and dreams. My goal is to make certain that all my students develop an appreciation for learning, become critical thinkers and problem-solvers, and can take care of themselves and succeed in all aspects of life.

I aim to create a structured, supportive environment in which students feel safe and appreciated, are free to take risks with their learning, and can be active members of a learning community. My strengths as a teacher include my ability to make children believe in themselves. It is my goal to help make success a reality for every student. To this end, I will help students make connections, so that they can build on the knowledge, skills and understandings that they already have and grow. I am also extremely committed and devoted to my students. To this end, I will take the time to truly get to know each of my students. This will help to develop positive and meaningful relationships with students, build trust, and help inform instruction that interests and engages each individual student.

Special education is both fun and demanding and my hope is to have given my students the tools and confidence needed to succeed. I sincerely hope that they feel they were cared for and were able to thrive and develop their unique talents and abilities. I want students to feel they had a knowledgeable, fun, and passionate teacher who brought enthusiasm into the educational process.