

Ella Educator

Professor Smith

CD 2

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Philosophy Statement

All children are unique in their own way; yet need the same amount of love, support, and attention from those closest to them who can change their lives and development for the better. My philosophy is influenced by many theorists and ideas based on children's development and education due to the amazing variety of people throughout the years that have shared their own beliefs and knowledge with the world. I have been greatly influenced by Johann Pestalozzi, Friedrich Froebel, Bank Street Model, Reggio Emilia Program, Lev Vygotsky, and Abraham Maslow. The theorists and models shape my understanding of what I want my classroom and teaching approaches to look like. I will use all of the techniques to teach and guide my students in a positive direction in the early stages of their development.

The basis of helping and guiding a child's development is knowing what is most important in that child's life, which is their health. Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of human needs shows the important factors that contribute to being healthy. The basic and most important needs are the deficiency needs; physiological needs and safety/security needs. In addition, there is the growth needs; self-respect, belongingness and affection, and self-actualization. I will focus on helping children in my classroom and school with the opportunities and assistance in their health.

Three very significant historical figures that are very meaningful in my process of creating my own learning environment are Johann Pestalozzi, Friedrich Froebel, and Lev Vygotsky. Pestalozzi's ideas of early care and education are some of the ideas that I want to include in my philosophy such as; careful observation of children, recognizing each child's potential, importance of teacher-student relationships, strengthening peer relationships, and sensory learning. Some of Froebel's ideas that I want to incorporate in my classroom are circle time and singing. Circle time is a great way for the whole class to interact with each other by strengthening relationships like Pestalozzi suggested. Singing could help kids understand certain concepts better, and create powerful bonds between students and teachers. Lastly, I agree with Vygotsky when he explains how important the zone of proximal development is and how imaginative play is key to the overall development of children.

After reading and seeing what the Bank Street Model and the Reggio Emilia Program consist of, I see what principles and characteristics I want to incorporate into my teaching and classroom. What I like from the Bank Street Model is the type of learning environment suggested and the materials used. This model shows how influential activities and materials can be when children get to choose. Therefore, having a variety of materials such as blocks, dress-up, water play, art, books, etc., is beneficial for children's knowledge and development. Some ideas from the Reggio Emilia Program that I would love to incorporate in my own class are; project approach, family involvement in child's development, pair work, and documenting learning through photographs and art.

In conclusion, I want to be a teacher who is loving, passionate, honest, patient, and have an open mind and relationships with all my students and their families. I want my students to feel comfortable and happy in my classroom, and feel the same at home. Therefore, I also want to make sure that they are getting all the support and guidance that they need in order to enhance their knowledge and development.