

Inspirations for Teaching

Almost everyone has heard the question: what do you want to be when you grow up? The most vivid time I remember this question was in fifth grade. Our teacher assigned a project that required us to write what we wanted to be when we were older and draw a picture of what we chose. On my paper, I wrote “I want to be a teacher” and drew a picture of myself dressed as a successful teacher. At that time, I had no idea that I would eventually pursue a degree in elementary education. As I went through high school and entered college, I did not have my mind set on any certain career, however, as time went on I found my calling.

Working with children has always been a passion of mine. In high school, I decided to volunteer to help as a student aid in a first-grade classroom at the local elementary school. I was not sure about this idea at first, but I ended up loving the experience and always looked forward to that time with the first-grade class. I loved helping them learn, and it was amazing to see the progress they had made over the time that I was with them. I got to see first-hand what it was like to “teach” young students. The experience of helping these students develop skills and watch them improve was rewarding and intriguing to be involved in. Although some days were challenging, I embraced the challenges and enjoyed overcoming them with the students. This event drew my attention towards the field of education.

Another significant experience that led me toward teaching was my summer job at a daycare center in my home town. This daycare had a required curriculum so it was not just watching children or “babysitting” them, rather it was about teaching them, helping them develop life skills, and fostering learning every day. It was required that we created lesson plans each week in accordance with the weekly theme and have learning activities planned and ready for each day. At first, I was intimidated by the task of making lesson plans, but I learned to enjoy

them because they allowed me to be creative. I was the teacher assigned to the school age classroom, so it gave me a small insight and slight experience as to what it could be like as an elementary school teacher. We had a daily schedule of things such as teaching our lessons, lunchtime, and outside time. It was similar to an education setting because of the curriculum, schedule, and separate classrooms for each age group. I absolutely loved this job, and it inspired me to become a teacher.

After considering and reflecting on the experiences that I have had with children, I created my philosophy. My philosophy that I strive to implement in my classroom is that my classroom will be a caring, fun, and safe environment where my students are excited to come to everyday, feel comfortable to share their thoughts and ideas, and have the best opportunity for them to learn. I think it is imperative that the students feel comfortable, because this will allow students to reach their full potential while enjoying their learning experience. I want them to be able to talk in front of their peers and to interact without being nervous or timid. My classroom will be a community where the students can grow and achieve success.

Teachers greatly influence students and how they develop, so it is up to us as educators to help them make the most of their learning. We can always improve our teaching which will help students and us educators reach the high expectations that are set by society and ourselves. We can be the reason that students love learning and love school, or we could be the complete opposite. I hope to be a teacher that inspires students to be the best they can be and motivate them to follow their dreams.