

My goals as an educator is to nurture relationships, engage students, and have a holistic approach towards teaching. As an educator, I want to facilitate learning through movement. My students will be engaged through hands-on activities, because students learn best when they get to experience a subject for themselves. Student's desire to know how the subjects relate to them, one of my goals as a teacher is to make it applicable to their lives so they see the value of it. It is very important to me to build relationships with all my students. According to *Love and Logic* "Human beings will perform for the person they love" (p.10). This is a major part to my teaching philosophy, because I believe that in order to have a successful classroom, you must first build that relationship. By building relationships, movement in the lesson, and taking a holistic approach towards education, students with all modalities can engage in the lesson.

As an educator, it is important to have structure and specific methods to reach my educational goals for my students. A major part of classroom management is relationships. I believe that the first step to managing behaviors is to build a relationship with them. If they don't know you, they will not respect you. Another part to having a successful classroom, is to have structures and rules. The organization of my classroom will come from my procedures and strategies. Wong and Marzano focus on the first days of school and having high expectations for students. By giving my students high expectations, there will be less room for behaviors.

It is necessary that students feel comfortable in my classroom so that they have an optimal learning space. I intend to create a warm environment by having a bright theme in my classroom. Flexible seating and natural lights will also help create an environment that will be comfortable for students. Flexible seating is one way that I plan to give responsibility to my students. It is important to give students the responsibility of their own learning. To make the rules more applicable to students, I would have them help create the rules. As with all rules, there

must be a limit, and if students can't handle the responsibility, I would make that choice for them. By giving children the opportunity to be responsible, you make learning personal.

As Dr. Maria Montessori stated, "Free the child's potential, and you will transform him into the world." Giving students responsibility, is one way to free the child's potential. In my classroom, I plan to have all my materials accessible to my students. I want them to experience and find interest in the world around them. This also gives the children the opportunity to explore their potential and go beyond the first tier of bloom's taxonomy.

The way I teach my class will have a major effect on behaviors and whether students learn. One way that I plan to avoid behaviors, is to eliminate waiting time by giving students a selection of activities they can do while they wait. As I teach my lessons, I plan to have lots of movement because it helps students connect comprehension and critical thinking. One way I plan to have movement is by organizing my lessons. I believe that it is important to group students and give students multiple opportunities to learn. In many lessons I have taught, I start in whole group, then move to pairing, and finally, students work individually. In doing this model, students have the opportunity to move and collaborate together. By participating in this model, students experience different learning relationships and interpersonal dynamics. These valuable skills will transform their interactions both inside and outside the classroom.

Another way that movement will be included in my classroom is through hands-on lessons. Students learn best if they have the opportunity to manipulate and experience what they are learning. Art is a subject that I am passionate about and it can be integrated into all subjects to give students a memorable, hands-on experience. By avoiding wait time and including movement in my classroom, I will have engaged, focused students who will have a better understanding of they are learning.

Assessing students is a major part of what I will have to do as a teacher. I believe that students should be given the benefit of the doubt and should be able to take tests in an environment where they will learn the best. To assess where students are at before they start, I would like to do a pre-assessment. Especially in math, pre-assessments give you a good idea where your students are at and where you need to focus your instruction. This also gives you the opportunity to differentiate with your high-flyers and below-proficient students. Open-ended questions are a great challenge for those high-flyers. For the striving students, scaffolding learning and working one-on-one with them, is most beneficial. In terms of formative assessment, I prefer to question and observe students as they learn. For summative assessments, I like to do projects and presentations, because I believe that it demonstrates their knowledge better. Papers are also valuable summative assessments and I like to make them more interesting by having them write articles for newspapers or give them other activities. Assessments are a necessary part of the classroom and I plan to use them in a variety of ways to instruct my students better.

Education is the future of the children. Because of this, I must create a student-centered learning space that facilitates learning. The way I plan to facilitate learning is through movement in the classroom, building relationships, and teaching the whole child. I want to see that light bulb turn on in a child's mind. I want to see that growth that children make as they attend school. Assessments are important to show that growth. I also plan to use my resources as I need assistance. The administration, school counselors, aides, and fellow teachers are all there as a support and resource. As a teacher, I value other people's opinions and I am interested in learning about new methods because education is progressive. I also believe parental involvement is an invaluable asset. By sending home letters and having activities that involve the

parents, engagement and involvement between the school and the parents will be enhanced.

Engagement, relationships, and a holistic approach to teaching will always be part of my method as an educator because I find that to be invaluable.

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