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EDU230

Foster

My Philosophy of Diversity in the Classroom

Knowledge on diversity

Before taking diversity in the classroom, EDU230, I was clueless on what diversity was. I knew it was about different cultures and races, but I didn't know about the difference between sex and gender. I learned so many more things in this class than I did throughout my whole semester. I enjoyed learning about religion and exceptional students. This class opened my eyes to see the world in a whole different view. I wasn't taught a lot about diversity in elementary, and maybe that's because it's harder for the younger students to fully understand and comprehend what diversity is. Giving students examples of diversity isn't the hard part about teaching diversity; I think the hard part is making sure that the children understand what I'm trying to get at. I want my students to be able to recognize and be fascinated by the different ways people live by. I believe that no matter what age learning about diversity will make the child stronger and more educated later in life.

Background/perfect teacher

Ever since I was a little girl, I've always wanted to help kids. At first I wanted to be a pediatrician but I realized it was too much school. I came to the conclusion that I wanted to be a teacher three years ago when I found myself helping my younger cousins with their homework and playing school with them. I love to help and share my knowledge with everyone no matter what age. However, kindergarten is the school age I have a desire to teach. They are full of energy, creative ideas, and ask many questions. They have a desire to learn and I would absolutely love to teach them. I plan to be the most perfect teacher I can, but I don't think that's possible without the knowledge from many years of experience. I know I must care for each one of my students and recognize and take into consideration of their individual needs. I plan to always be there for my students whether it's to talk to them about

their home life or support and their confidence when they aren't doing well in class. I plan on treating all my students equally no matter their sex, race, or religion.

My future classroom

In my future classroom, I plan to make it as diverse as possible. In my philosophy paper last semester I just wanted my classroom to be colorful, welcoming, and educational with numbers and letters. I find that to still be true but I will add posters of people of all different races and cultures. I want to provide my students with tons of books with lots of pictures so they can learn from and use their imagination. I want my students to be able to come to my classroom and discover something about it they didn't see before, along with their parents. My classroom will have work of the students and only one rule. The only rule I have ever believed in is "treat yourself, others, and all objects with respect".

How/what I'll teach

I plan on teaching diversity in many ways. When I was doing service learning at Galveston, I didn't see much learning about diversity. Some things the students learned were basic things about the Spanish language and their culture. The whole class was Hispanic so most of the things they were learning, they kind of already knew. I want to provide experiences such as having different people come into my class and talk to the students about their religion and culture. That will give my students the opportunity to ask questions and learn something new. I believe that students will learn more by hands-on lessons. I am very creative and a hands-on learner myself. I think that it would be easier for me to share and trade ideas about diversity with other teachers and it would be easier for the students to learn more in a fun and exciting way. It also will give my students opportunity to share their creativity with me and their peers. I noticed that in my service learning class they didn't do anything very artsy, they did a lot of coloring worksheets; the students would get bored and start to wonder off. I want what I teach my students to be engaging, useful, and clear to my students as much as possible.

Discipline in the classroom

If a child is being picked on because of their race, religion, skin color, etc. I would have both of the students come to me and talk it out. I would have the child being picked on tell the other students what he did wrong and how it made him feel. Then I would have the bully tell him sorry and explain what he did wrong and why he did it. Usually

the part of why they did such a thing is the hardest part for a child because it's usually never a good enough reason. Once that is taken care of, I will make the bully stay in for recess and make an apology card for the other student. While he or she is doing that, I will write a letter to his parents stating that if it continues with the same child or any other students, he will be sent to the principal. I believe that the only way children learn is through experiences and analyzing things. If a child breaks my one and only rule, they have 3 chances and on their third time breaking the rule, a letter will be sent home because I believe they will only take advantage of second chances. I will also have the child stay in for recess and tell me why they did what they did and either write or draw it out . then the paper will be signed and dated by me and put away in a file folder. I know that some of my discipline may seem a little harsh but how else will they learn?

I have learned many new things throughout my schooling years and now it's my turn to teach what I have been taught. I believe that the greatest reward in teaching is knowing that my students have gained new knowledge. When I was a child I didn't understand some of the methods my teachers used, and now that I'm in college and taking education classes I can understand why and I have a new respect for them. Someday I hope my students can see where I come from and respect me for it.