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Philosophy Paper

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 Throughout the multiple experiences in my education career at Thiel College, my knowledge of lesson planning, creating unit plans, and teaching in general has broadly expanded. Much of what I have learned has stemmed from reading, writing, listening and speaking. My journey has spanned from learning about Piaget and Vygotsky, backward design and Bloom’s Taxonomy, to Marzano’s teaching with effective instruction and classroom management. My ideology and beliefs on teaching are based around the 5 pillars of reading instruction. These pillars would include Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary and Comprehension. All of these pillars have a distinct place in the teaching of reading. I believe that formative assessments are a must when monitoring student’s progress.

In my ideology, I believe that the inner discipline plan for classroom management is a strong way to connect with students and help them create that self-responsibility. When teaching, I believe that a language arts approach to teaching is a good approach for many reasons. Not only do I feel that you should be using language arts as an approach to learning but also using basal texts, and finding room for technology. I feel that as generations go by, technology is constantly being used as a tool and also is conditioned and implemented into younger and younger people. Using technology is an inevitable process in student learning and can benefit the students heavily. I feel that basal texts are a very good resource for kids during their reading process because it opens them up to a wide oasis of educational foundations. It helps them grow their vocabulary, teach them and connect them to the real world, and also help them improve their reading skills. Throughout my experience in education, I have discovered many different ways to assess student’s reading progress, strategies that involve parents, and how to grab the attention of students.

 I have come to understand my experiences and beliefs as an effective way of teaching. Much of what I have learned throughout this class and beyond will be reflected in how I came to understand the information given to me. Everything that I have learned throughout my education career has helped me to become an effective teacher in the near future.

 In the five pillars of reading so far we have covered only the fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. The other two along with fluency will be taught more next semester. We went over many great and useful strategies throughout the semester that dealt with vocabulary. Writing with a voice was one of the big concepts that really caught my eye. I felt that writing with a voice really engages students and helps them become really good readers, and writers. It helped students become quite self-aware of their process. It helps them discover where they were in the writing process. Writing with a voice helps students expand on their learning process, it makes them think aloud and concentrate on what they are writing.

I learned that when teaching vocabulary you must provide rich and varied language experiences. You must have them expand their horizons when it comes to reading different pieces of literature. Along with other things you should teach individual words, use word learning strategies, and helping students become more word conscious when reading and learning to read. A nice vocabulary strategy that we learned would be the tier word PowerPoint, where in each tier helps improve understanding of a word. Using word walls and comparing and contrasting are effective ways to help students learn vocabulary and reading. It helps further their understanding and comprehension of information. Using writing with a pencil is an effective strategy that help enforce comprehension of the information the student is reading. A strategy that I really liked the most was “hand writing. This strategy is one in which students pretend to write a word on their hand and share it with the class. The teacher writes the correct spelling of the word on the board and it helps the student learn the proper way to spell while the other students might be learning a new word. This strategy helps get every student willingly involved in the activity. This strategy is very good for kinesthetic learners. Read alouds are great for students to learn knew words in different contexts.

Some other strategies that I have learned that are very effective would be the I-chart that we did at the beginning of the year with the topic of cowboys. The 4-2-1 strategy is a good strategy when trying to instill understanding of information given to them. Another strategy would be the story pyramid which helps build and expand student’s vocabulary. When I teach I will approach the subject of spelling in a different way than traditional teachers. Getting the students engaged in activities instead of repetition will ensure the students success in spelling. These strategies are just a few of effective strategies that will ensure understanding and learning for students.

 When it comes to reading I believe that using a basal text is important when teaching your students. I feel this because it exposes them to many different elements in reading. I feel that it should be the basis for every child’s learning in reading. I also believe that when teaching you should include novels in the instruction. I believe that this can apply for most subjects. For example students can develop their reading skills in history by reading a novel about the civil war ( My Brother Sam is Dead). I believe that novels can be introduced in most subjects, and can help expand their vocabulary and improve their reading fluency.

 I will assess my students reading progress by formatively assessing students throughout the lesson/unit.They will read a story or whatever is assigned and will do a free write in which they think aloud and answered guided questions to see where the students are in their progress of reading and comprehension. I will support the non-readers by having them free write about what they like or what appeals to them while they can do readings on the topics the students in the class pick as a whole.

 To conclude throughout my experience with ECE 304, I have learned many strategies in which they engage students, improve literacy, reading and comprehension, and also how to further my understanding of becoming an effective teacher. When teaching you should always make the information or text relevant to the student. When giving the students information that is relevant to them, it is easier for the students to become more engaged in the learning process. The students will be more interested and will help the environment of your classroom management. Much of becoming an effective teacher comes from the 5 pillars of reading instruction, and the many activities and strategies to help further the success for students. From the three parts of a lesson, having desired results, assessing your students (whether it be from formative or summative testing), and having activities for students to learn, effective and successful teaching can occur.