Philosophy of Education: Before and After

I became a teacher because of my love of learning and desire to help others feel that joy. Part of my job as a teacher is to stay current and continue to grow in order to nurture that love of learning.

I believe that education…

… is personal. Children learn best in a safe and nurturing community guided by a caring teacher who is in tune to and can inspire, arouse curiosity, and grab attention.

…is messy and active. Children learn best in an environment that is visually stimulating, full of reference cues, having a variety of inviting places to explore, relax, play, read, work together, or by one’s self, and is full of movement.

… is fun. Children learn best when they are allowed to have fun with their teacher, each other, and with their learning tasks.

…is daring. Children learn best in an environment where they are encouraged to take risks.

…is collaborative. Children learn from each other in many ways. Learning is enhanced in an environment that allows sharing of ideas among each other and with the teacher.

…takes a lot of energy. Children learn best when they are required to work hard and reach high.

…is satisfying. Children learn best when the joy of learning is an obvious trait in the teacher and is encouraged in children.

…is relevant to the learner. Children learn best when what they are learning is meaningful to them and can be applied somewhere in their lives.

…is well-planned but flexible. Children learn best when their teacher is calm and in control of the lesson, knows what comes next, and is able to get side-tracked but can elegantly steer them back to what’s at hand.

When I started the Master’s of Education Technology program, I had not been a classroom teacher for many years; when I did teach in the classroom it was only for a few years. My role in K-12 revolved around helping teachers incorporate technology into teaching and learning. I continue along that same path of incorporating technology into teaching and learning, however, I now work in higher education with faculty.

My current philosophy of education, despite the fact that I work with highly educated adults, did not change much!

I believe that education…

… is personal. People learn best when there is a feeling of community guided by a caring instructor who is in tune to and can inspire them, arousing curiosity and grabbing attention.

…is messy and active. Adults learn best in an environment where they can apply what they’ve learned in a hands-on lab situation right away.

… is fun. People learn best when they are allowed to have fun with their instructor, each other, and with their learning tasks.
**is daring.** Adults learn best in an environment where they are encouraged to take risks and can experience and learn from others taking risks alongside.

**is collaborative.** Adults learn a great deal from each other in many ways. Learning is enhanced in an environment that allows sharing of ideas and where collaboration is expected.

**takes a lot of energy.** Adults learn best when they are required to reach beyond what they know; if they already know it, the learning is a waste of their time as they are busy with jobs, families, and professional obligations.

**is satisfying.** Adults learn best when the joy of learning is an obvious trait in the guide, and when the learning is immediately helpful.

**is relevant to the learner.** Adults learn best when what they are learning is meaningful to them and can be applied in their lives either personally or professionally.

**is well-planned but flexible.** Adults learn best when the instructor is obviously calm and in control, easily moves on to what’s next, can get side-tracked but can elegantly move on to what needs to be covered.