1. Chapter two discusses teaching and how to be an effective teacher. We must have guiding principles that create natural learning environments, get students’ attention and keep it, start and focus on where the students are, not where the text says they should be at, seek commitments, help students learn outside of the class, and create diverse learning experiences. Also, we should have daily structure and flexibility and create an enticing classroom environment. Effective teaching needs teachers to maintain close monitoring of individual and class performance. Also, teachers need to be diverse and be sensitive to differences as well as help students develop familiarity and respect for others differences. These differences could be differing interests, abilities, weakness, physical disabilities, mental disabilities, cultural, ELL, and many more.

2. “The Inner need one human being has to help another is the essence of teaching” (pg 43). I love this quote. Without the passion to help others, why would you ever want to go into teaching? I feel this need every day and working with children and helping them grow into good adults is something that drives me to love teaching.

3. I did not feel as though the free write was an effective use of class time today. I feel like we have done enough writing to understand how it is best implemented in the classroom.

4. I enjoyed the def poetry clip. His words were so true and I feel as though most people should understand that we do a lot more than just teach. Not many people can successfully do our future jobs.

5. The dinosaur book was full of amazing pictures! I am not into dinosaur but the pictures are so captivating that it is hard not to have it spark your interest.

Comments

1. I liked that your summary included that we should focus on where students are, not where the text says they should be. I feel that this was one of the most important statements in the chapter.

2. I completely agree! Helping others is one of the best feelings in life.

3. 20 minutes was a long time for a free write, but I guess it is emphasizing that you learn best by doing.

4. I wish people who weren’t education majors or teachers could understand the job, but to each his own.
5. I need to brush up on my pronunciation of dinosaur names before reading that kind of a book to children!

Tuesday, 06/17/2008 9:50 AM by Zoe

1. Good summary, I liked how you touched on all of the main points. I would try to work on sentence structure more.

2. I also agree, many can't understand why we are teachers because the pay is not as good as some of the other professions. However, they don't understand the concept of trying to help others, and that is why we do it.

3. I also agree, I notice that you need to practice it and model it to your students, but I feel the time could have been used for other content.

4. I agree, it angers me when people say that it is such an easy job and it requires no skill. I am sorry but it does and I agree that majority of the population could not teach if they tried.

5. I enjoy books that have great pictures, and from personal experience little kids love dinosaurs!

Tuesday, 06/17/2008 12:52 PM by Stephanie

1. Your summary is a bit brief and lacks needed details. I did like your words related to the chapter about effective instruction: "Effective teaching needs teachers to maintain close monitoring of individual and class performance." Yes, we must be vigilant to monitor and adjust our instruction accordingly.

2. If one does not possess a helpful spirit, one needs to select a different profession and leave education for those who wish to nurture and inspire learning.

3. Best practice is to provide students with enough time to write. I hope that your classrooms will be filled with adequate time to learn.

4. I am pleased that you felt the online video was a worthwhile activity.

5. Find interests in your students and feed them.

Wednesday, 06/18/2008 12:08 PM by David

1. I thought your summary was a good overview of the main point of the chapter but that it lacked important details. There was a lot of specific information given in the chapter that you may want to look back on.
2. I almost chose this quote myself, anyone who is in the major needs to believe this quote to the core of their being.

3. I enjoyed the time for writing. I thought it was a relaxing way to end class for students to just write, and it also showed how it is for students to write without a prompt which is something we hadn't experienced yet in class.

4. I posted that video because it inspires me to stand up to those who feel my major is easy and that I do no work, and that is why I have a high GPA. I have a high GPA because I work hard, not because the work is easy. I care about my future job, and I wish people who criticize teachers understood the work we put in.

5. If it weren't for the illustrations I doubt that book would have held my attention. I followed the story line because the pictures were so detailed, I agree with you.

***Lisa (permalink)***

Created on Monday, 06/16/2008 5:10 PM by Lisa

1. Chapter two talks about children and teaching in the classroom. Farris tells us that children possess a natural desire to learn and be accepted by others. Teachers should learn to set realistic but challenging goals for the students. Schools are to teach students how to be critical learners and problem solvers. Students learn and understand more when they are interested in the topic. Children that are younger than their classmates tend to struggle more. There are several strategies that most effective teachers have. Some of them include a critical learning environment, keeping the students’ attention, committed, and helps the student learn outside of the classroom. They also use a combination of both direct teaching and constructivist teaching. All teachers must learn to be flexible. Situations will occur that the teacher cannot change. The set up of a classroom can have an effect on how the students learn. Most classrooms today have students with special needs. In order to make sure that all the students’ needs are met, the teacher must be prepared before the lesson.

2. “Children learn best when they are interested in the topic and are allowed to include their own previously gained knowledge as part of the learning setting” (44). I like this quote because I feel that it is important to remember when teaching. If the teacher can hold the students’ interest, the students will remember more of what they know.

3. It was useful that Farris included an example of what a typical day is like in a first grade classroom. I did not realize how much is covered in one day until I read it one paper.

4. Another professor emphasized to our class the importance of modify and adjust. This chapter reemphasizes this point when talking about how important it is to be flexible while teaching.

5. I liked reading the book about idioms in class today. I think it is important to know what something means before you can teach it to your class.

***Comments***

1. Very nicely outlined summary. I liked that you put how teachers should have realistic, yet challenging goal for their students. If their goals are set too high then the students will give up and if their goals are set too low, then the children will just get bored.
2. I absolutely agree. Knowing what your class likes and dislikes will have a huge impact on their attention span and grades.

3. It also depends on the teacher...I was in a second grade classroom once and I felt the teacher got absolutely nothing accomplished.

4. Like Dr. Walker said, if a teaching technique does not work with one class, do not throw it away; simply modify it and try it again.

5. I enjoyed the book as well. I found many idioms that I have never heard of and many idioms which I have heard of but did not know the meaning of them.

---

1. Great summary. You touched on very important points. I was surprised when I read about the age of the child making a difference in achievement level. I also agree with the point of teachers being very flexible. Most of the time teachers need to run a tight ship to keep their classrooms in order and free of chaos, however, we need to be able to switch gears at the drop of a hat.

2. What usually happens to you when something in class isn't interesting? I know that my mind starts to wonder and my eyes start to become very heavy. Keep this in mind when you become a teacher. Make the learning experience as fun but as productive as you can make it.

3. Yes it's amazing how much teachers can get into one day, however, it's also frustrating because there always seems to never enough time for anything. I'm sure we'll adjust.

4. Modify and adjust! Modify and adjust! We'll be saying and thinking this in our sleep but it's a must! Making a lesson plan is just the rough draft. Once we meet our class and go throughout the year, we'll see that not every student learns or understands the same. Modify and adjust!

5. I agree. I really liked reading the origins.

---

1. Your summary is very inclusive. I esp. like your words about teachers, "...a combination of both direct teaching and constructivist teaching." Here we see a good blending of teaching techniques.

2. I really like your analysis of the selected quote, "If the teacher can hold the students' interest, the students will remember more of what they know." Yes!

3. Farris' text is a super resource. I like the daily schedule.

4. We must be flexible to be the best for our students.
5. Idioms are important for the development of comprehension.

Samantha (permalink)
Created on Monday, 06/16/2008 4:15 PM by Samantha

1. Chapter 2 is *Children and Teachers in the Classroom*. The enthusiasm and energy that children have when they enter school must be nurtured by understanding teachers who set realistic but challenging goals. Children learn best when they are interested in the topic and are allowed to include their own previously gained knowledge as part of the learning setting. Children who are younger than their classmates, or those who have summer birthdays, are at a disadvantage in the classroom. There are several general principles that guide outstanding classroom teachers create a natural critical learning environment, get students attention and keep it, seek commitments etc. Two views of learning are prevalent today: a direct approach and the constructivist view. Trying to fit all of the subjects into one school day is by no means easy. Brain research suggests than an organized, structural classroom aids in student learning. There also should be a space to display books written by the students themselves. All individuals are diverse - each person is unique in his or her own way. It is important for teachers to recognize the types of diversities that are present: academic and cognitive diversity, cultural diversity, and linguistic diversity. Diversity in the classroom requires a vast array of instructional beliefs and practices. There are 5 primary approaches to teaching children from and about different cultures and people with and about special needs. Depending upon the particular disability, physically challenged students may or may not have greater difficulty with language arts than other children. There are many ways teachers can minimize the frustration that ELLs might experience and make them feel more comfortable in the classroom environment.

2. "Teaching is not an easy profession, but it is a rewarding one in that teachers help others better their lives" (p.43). I chose this quote because I believe this is the essence of teaching. It kind of goes along with the youtube video we saw in class today. Teachers may not get as high of a salary as they should, but like someone said today, it is a very intrinsic rewarding career.

3. Today Dr. Walker modeled a role story. I have never seen one or heard of one before this course. I believe it is a great idea for an activity. We also went over how book reports are a dead art form. I think students will have more fun, and enjoy doing a role story instead of a book report and will probably get more in the end from the role story.

4. Today we had to choose an idiom and explain it to our group. I thought it was fun because we got to learn new idioms and also get some teaching practice. I looked through the book for some time and found many idioms I have never heard of. Even some of the idioms I have heard of, but did not know the meaning were made clear to me today.

5. The last activity we did today was a free write. I really do not mind free writing. It is good to sometimes just write a problem you are having, any issues you are going through, or even just to write. Sometimes it is hard to think of something to write during a free write. I do not think it is hard to think of something because there is not anything to write, I think it is hard to think of something to write because there are SO many options.

**Comments**

1. I like how in your summary you gave specific examples from the chapter. You covered all the main points in the chapter.

2. I like this quote. It reminded me of the video clip that we watched in class today. We know that teachers are not in the field for the money.

3. I liked the role stories. I like that Dr. Walker shares ideas like this with us. If he tried to just explain it to us I may not have understood how to make it, but actually seeing helps me learn how to make it in the class.
4. I enjoyed the idiom book as well. I learned a lot about them today. I did not know that there was such a book but I will look into getting one for myself and my classroom.

5. I think this is a great time for the students to release any stress they may have. They need to know that they do not have to share their writings with others if they do not want to and this will help them feel more relaxed when writing.

1. Good summary. It covered all of the main points in the chapter really well.

2. This is such a rewarding career. There aren't many careers out there where you can get the feeling you do when you help a child.

3. I was glad that Dr. Walker brought in the roll story. I read about this in the book and have never heard of or seen one before so it was interesting to see a student created one.

4. The idiom book was interesting. I didn't realize there were so many!

5. True. I think students think too much into it when they have to share their writing with others and may not be writing the way they could.

1. Children and their teachers, a nice summary of this chapter. I esp. liked your inclusion of specific characteristics of effective educators, "...outstanding classroom teachers create a natural critical learning environment, get students attention and keep it, seek commitments etc." A good start to a career in education.

2. Many people in the profession see their role as a calling. We are in this career path to make a difference.

3. The roll story is a fun activity and produces a worthwhile product.

4. Idioms are wonderful seeds of literacy learning. Use them to the delight and comprehension of your students.

5. Free writes are wonderful elements of instruction. However, teachers must ease their students into them and prepare them well.

Melissa (permalink)
Created on Monday, 06/16/2008 4:12 PM by Melissa

1. Chapter two deals with teachers and their students and what we can do to become effective teachers. In today's society, children are dealing with more social and emotional problems at a younger age and this affects them both at home and at school. It is important to find ways to help these children cope with their situations as home as well as still being able to focus on school work. Research indicates there are several principals that guide outstanding
teachers including getting and keeping students’ attention, helping students learn outside of the classroom, create diverse learning experiences and starting with where students are, not simply where the textbook says they should be. It is also important for teachers to have effective classroom management skills and also daily structure within the classroom so students have that consistency from day to day and know what is going to happen and when. Flexibility is also key though because there are times when things aren’t going to go as planned such as early dismissals or lessons that took longer than expected and teachers need to be flexible in their planning and allow adequate time for instruction and understanding to occur. Diversity is also a sensitive issue in the classroom and teachers must do what they can to make all students feel welcome and respected in the classroom environment. There are five approaches teachers can use in order to do so. First, teach the exceptional and culturally different, second is human relations which means teachers attempt to develop self-confidence in all students, third is single group studies where one group is focused on and studied by the class at one time, fourth is multicultural education which includes five goals, and finally education that is multicultural and social reconstructionist which means the whole curriculum deals with inequalities and discusses both past and current social issues. Finally teachers must try and meet the needs of all students, as challenging as this may be. We must be familiar with learning techniques and strategies for all students including special needs or ELL students that will help them be successful and feel accepted within their classroom.

2. "In order to meet the needs of a diverse student population it is important for teachers to recognize the types of diversity that are present” (p 57). I liked this quote because when I think of diversity it is cultural or racial that stands out in my mind. But diversity includes much more than that including academic, cognitive, and linguistic differences that exist in every classroom today. It is going to be challenging to reach out and help all these students but we can do our best by providing students with many types of learning experiences and strategies that will hopefully be effective for all students at one time or another.

3. I can see now how difficult a free write can be for students after starting ours in class today. You feel like a deer caught in the headlights with nowhere to go. But having had writing experiences in the class before and ideas on where to start made it a little easier. I can see how having brainstorming or type 2 or 3 papers in folders can help students find somewhere to begin instead of just sitting there tapping their pencils being frustrated.

4. I like how in the introduction Farris mentions that students today face more choices and social problems than ever before and I completely agree with this. My experience with fourth grade enlightened me on this. These students knew more things at their age than I did in eighth grade. Some students had very rough home lives and this carried over into school and they were unable to concentrate on work or would have problems interacting with other students. It showed me that teaching is so much more than just that. It involves helping children deal with social or emotional problems in order for them so be active members of the learning community.

5. I am excited to hear the rest of the dinosaur book that we started today and I think that just reading the introduction of the book like that with little children would be effective as well because it will get their attention and have them wondering all night what the day will be like for the dinosaur. I think they would be just as excited to hear the rest of the book, just as I am.

Comments

1.) Precise summary

2.) I agree. So many times we forget how many different things can make us diverse from eachother.

3.) Free writes don't bother me much anymore. They were done to death when I was younger so I am used to them.

4.) Very true point.
5.) I loved the pictures!  
Tuesday, 06/17/2008 1:18 AM by Jennifer

1. Your summary is fine. I esp. like how you address the need for teachers to be flexible.

2. Oh yes, we all need to expand our ideas of diversity. We must nurture all.

3. I agree, we need to prepare our students for free writing. All too often children do look like "deer caught in the headlights" because they feel ill-prepared to write without the safety of a prompt, a picture, etc. Great teachers use writing folders that have treasures of help for students who encounter writer's block. Fill the folders with graphic organizers, type 1 and 2 papers filled with ideas, past writings to be revised, etc.

4. I have found the same phenomena over the past several years. Many students feel that they know-it-all before the end of elementary school. Many others are street-wise beyond their years. We must take these factors into consideration when we are teaching.

5. Super, entice your students into loving literacy. It will be a gift that will last a life-time!

Zoe (permalink)
Created on Monday, 06/16/2008 1:18 PM by Zoe
Updated on Monday, 06/16/2008 1:18 PM by Zoe

1. Chapter two discusses the needs and differences of students in the classroom, and gives suggestions for how teachers can better organize instruction, improve classroom management, and reach every child in the classroom. Young children entering school are typically excited and enthused more than they have ever been before. Teachers can either build upon or destroy a child's attitude and experience in school. It is important that teachers realize how much children look up to them, especially in the primary grades. Teachers must set realistic but challenging goals for their students, in order to foster and enthusiasm and positive feeling toward learning. Children typically learn best when the material is relatable and relevant, and they can connect prior knowledge to what is being taught. Teachers must realize that all children have different backgrounds, and teach accordingly. Teaching is effective whenever the end result is learning for the students. There is not a set of rules that when followed will create a successful teacher, however, there are some principles that guide outstanding teachers. The following have been shown to aid in effective teaching: creating a natural critical learning environment, getting students' attention and keeping it, seeking commitments, starting where the students are, not where the text says they should be, helping students learn outside of class, and creating diverse learning experiences. Teachers must also be flexible. It is important to have a plan and schedule for the day, but it is equally if not more important to know how to modify and adjust according to students' needs. The physical classroom also plays a role in student learning. Research shows that the more organized and structured a classroom is, the more beneficial this is to student learning. The text offers several suggestions for organization in the classroom.

The last part of the chapter is about teaching to every student. It goes over diversity in the classroom, multicultural considerations, and teaching ELL students. The types of diversity that are discussed include academic and cognitive diversity, cultural diversity, and linguistic diversity.

2. "Children also prefer to learn about what is relevent to themselves" (pg. 44). I think this quote is important to remember, because every child has a different background and also different preferences. It is a good idea to expose children to books that they may be personally interested in, but it is also good to teach in a way that makes the information relevant and appealing to the students.
3. I liked on page 49 in the chapter where it gave a sample of the organization of a school day. Typically, when you are looking at a schedule like this, it seems unrealistic. This schedule was organized, realistic, and detailed.

4. I did not like in the multicultural section where the text referred to the approach of "human relations," which promotes the idea of a melting pot. I think many people dislike this idea because it seems as though we are blending everyone to be the same, instead of celebrating differences. Also, the text said that in this approach students are encouraged to be tolerant of other cultures. I think as teachers we should do more than just have our students tolerate other cultures, we should have them respect and be eager to learn about others.

5. This chapter emphasized how hard I think it is going to be to teach to every student. In my opinion that will be one of the hardest things to do in the classroom, but if I do it it will probably also be the most rewarding.

Comments

1. A fine summary using many important points from the chapter. I esp. liked the words, "Teachers must set realistic but challenging goals for their students, in order to foster and enthusiasm and positive feeling toward learning." Yes, we must foster realistic and challenging learning.

2. This ties directly to schema theory.

3. Several students noted this. The text is a fine, useful reference,

4. Yes, the melting pot concept is archaic and offensive to many. See my response to Julie's RDE for a more complete comment.

5. Yes, but work in inherently difficult. Thsat's why it is called work!

Ashley Post on June 16 2008 (permalink)
Created on Monday, 06/16/2008 11:21 AM by Ashley
Updated on Monday, 06/16/2008 7:10 PM by Ashley

1. Chapter 2 has a lot of important information just like the other chapters we have read. This chapter deals with the importance of children and their teachers in the classroom. The biggest thing that we need to be aware of is that all of our students are different. All of the children come from different places, learn different ways, and have very different personalities. We as teachers need to be ready for that. It is our job to make sure that the classroom environment is very warm and inviting. Because of all of the differences we will encounter, we need to make sure that we have withitness, we need to make sure that we can think on our feet and change our plans at spur of the moment. There are at least 6 guiding principles to being an effective teacher. The environment should be a natural and critical. We need to grab our students attention and keep it. The textbooks should be appropriate to the child, not where the child should be. Students should know what it expected of them at all times, for everything. Our students should learn outside the classroom, and last but not least, there should be a diverse learning experience. When we teach, most of the time there will be a schedule. In the morning there will be Language Arts, followed by Math and then Music. What we must keep in mind though, is that time will vary. Sometimes assignments will finish sooner than expected while others will need additional time. We need to be prepared for this, especially if the students are finishing early. It's wasted, valuable time if the children are just sitting there while waiting to go to the next thing. Have your children read, have them work on another assignment, have them work on anything school related because doing nothing just isn't acceptable. The classroom setup should be inviting and warming. Having the classroom organized is a great way to start. The example of having the books in milk crates according to genre
and level is an outstanding idea. The children should be able to find things on their own. Again in the chapter it talks about diversity in the classroom. Children will come from all types of family structure. Some will speak another language, some will say words differently than the person beside them, and some will look different. As a teacher, we should be ready to make adaptations to our lessons. Is it also wise to let the students know how important it is to accept one another for who they are not where they come from. The last section the chapter touched on was dealing with the English language learner. Practice, practice, practice is a great start to help the student learn a new language. The book also suggest labeling items in the classroom to allow the student to become aware of everyday things. As a teacher we are the ones that set the tone. We should be able to think on our toes, and be able to modify our lessons when need be. As teachers we should also express to our students that everyone in the classroom is like a family member, therefore, no matter their background, we are all treated equal and with respect.

2. "...Those who teach, teach. Those who can't go into a lesser profession" (Pg. 43).

I see that some of us have chosen this quote and it is for good reason. I believe teaching is an art, a skill, a want. I've wanted for so long to have my own classroom and to teach little children all sorts of things. I want to know at the end of the day that I helped a child learn something they never knew before and are excited about it. I want to know that I made a difference. Too often, people think that having a teaching degree is simple to get so they opt to do it rather than something else. You have to "WANT" to be a teacher. It's more than irritating when I tell someone that I am going to be an elementary teacher and they say "Oh that's awesome. You get your summers off and you only work this amount of days". Those people wouldn't make good teachers. In all honestly, you don't have your summers off because you're prepping for the next school year but that is besides the point. Being a teacher is a very important job. Either your heart is in it or its not.

3. The book on idioms was great. I noticed a lot of phrases in there that I have heard before. While looking at them, is was nice to read to origin of the idiom or gain new information on those I havn't heard of before. I could possibly see using this in the higher level grades, however, I don't think this would be the time to share it with the younger children.

4. I enjoyed the free write today. Most of the time, children dislike being told what to write about. When children have a free write, children are able to express themselves, they are able to share things that they are feeling inside, and this is also a time for them to be creative. All around, I think free writes are great.

5. I love this video clip we watched in class today. I have seen this before and the more I see it the more I like it. As I said in class, teachers don't get paid nor are "we" treated the way we should be. On the other hand, being a teacher and really loving, it isn't about the money. For me, being a teacher and touching lives all day is enough reward for me. The comments people posted just goes to show that these are most likely people who don't understand the education system, aren't teachers-at least I hope, and have no appreciation for what teachers do.

Comments

1. I think your summary is super and filled with salient details. I think everyone needs, "Practice, practice, practice is a great start to help the student learn a new language." not simply the ELL students. As the idiom states, "Practice makes perfect" or at least close to it!

2. I agree, we all need to WANT to be teachers.

3. Yes, idiom phrases are for instruction with older students. However, you would be surprised as to how often idioms are used in daily conversations and within children's literature.

4. Free writes are great when teachers prepare the students for them. They can be disasters if the students do not know what to do with little or no guidance. All too often teachers are telling the students exactly what to do!
5. Teaching is a specialized profession that is a calling for most.

1. Chapter 2 focuses on children and teachers in the classroom. The chapter opens up by discussing the roles of children and their teachers and children and their world which gives great examples of life inside the classroom. The next section focuses on effective teaching including guiding principles. These principles include creating a natural critical learning environment, get students’ attention and keep it, and start with where the students are, not where the textbook says they should be. Other principles include seeking commitments, helping students learn outside the class, and creating diverse learning experiences. The next part of the chapter focuses on daily structure and flexibility and gives examples of organizing a school day for first and fifth grade. Farris next discusses diversity in the classroom in which diversity is described as people who are members of nondominant groups, such as those who are culturally, socioeconomically, racially, linguistically, physically, and cognitively different from those in dominant groups. Various diversities include academic and cognitive diversity which refers to learning pace or style, and cultural diversity which refers to the student’s family, background experiences, and socioeconomic group. Linguistic diversity refers to those with varying dialects including ELL students. With diversity in the classroom, it is important to use multicultural considerations which includes five approaches including teaching the exceptional and culturally different, human relations, single-group studies, multicultural education, and education that is multicultural and social reconstructionist. The five goals of multicultural education are the strength and value of cultural diversity, human rights and respect for those who are different from oneself, alternative life choices for people, social justice and equal opportunity for all people, and equity in the distribution of power among groups.

2. "The act of teaching is always a dynamic interaction of individuals (teachers and teachers, teachers and learners, and learners and learners)" (page 46)

-I thought this quote was very influential because it describes the interaction that goes on with those who teach and those who learn. I think it is very important that there is much communication and interaction in the classroom because then the students know what is expected of them and they then know what to expect of you as the teacher. There should be no gaps in interaction or communication which would help your classroom run much more smoothly.

3. I enjoyed on Thursday doing the activity with the character chart. It is a great way for students to use their imagination and be creative while also touching on who?, when?, where?, why?, and how? It is definitely something I intend to use in my own classroom!

4. I loved in the text how the fourth approach of multicultural education is described as a "tossed salad" rather than a "melting pot." We are all different and that is what makes diversity so interesting. A tossed salad can come in a million different ways, each person making it their own. It is the same with diversity, everyone comes in so many different forms and that is what truly makes our society so interesting.

5. I really enjoy in our classroom how the environment is so comfortable. I have had classes before where no one wanted to say anything which made it always awkward to participate. I love how our class communicates with each other through discussion and conversation. It is important that we also make our students feel comfortable in our future classrooms as well!
Comments

1. Your summary is fine. I agree with your rewordings. However, let's be sure that all our classrooms teach multicultural education whether or not they are diverse is immaterial. "The five goals of multicultural education are the strength and value of cultural diversity, human rights and respect for those who are different from oneself, alternative life choices for people, social justice and equal opportunity for all people, and equity in the distribution of power among groups." This quote is filled with salient ideas for education for everyone.

2. Yes, let's strive to have our classrooms be filled with two-way conversations, interesting and pertinent discussions, and fun-filled learning all embracing respect.

3. Character Charts are fine graphic organizers that assist many in their development of writing skills.

4. Julie and you mentioned the same aspect of multiculturalism and I have copied my reply to her here fo you:
Absolutely, the melting pot philosophy is archaic and offensive to many people. No one wishes to see their culture melt into another and disappear. The tossed salad or quilt analogies are more current as the express an inclusion with destruction. We can see and appreciate the cultural contributions without mutating them as we see them as varietal ingredients in the salad of society or as fabric-patterns within the quilts of our societal make up.

5. Thank you for your kind compliment. Yes, classroom learning is more productive when everyone feel comfortable to participate. Remember this and cultivate it in your own teaching. Setting worthy goals for yourself as a teacher is important.

1. Very good summary, you include all the main points from the chapter.
2. I really like the quote you chose because being a teacher does involve many more interactions other than just teacher and student. It involves a partnership between you and everyone in the school.
3. I really liked the character chart because it helped me to organize my ideas and made my writing that much easier.
4. I like the idea of a tossed salad rather than a melting pot. We are all unique individuals that make up such a diverse world. When referring to a tossed salad, we are recognizing our unique characteristics.
5. I agree. I know I don't talk a lot in class but the environment is safe and inviting and really conducive to learning.
1. Chapter 2 talks about teachers and children in the classroom. In the introduction it stressed that children naturally are enthusiastic about learning and they need teachers who will nurture that and use your students differences in a positive way. Teaching is challenging and should include high expectations, and you should know ways of getting the class’s attention and retaining it. Do not highlight mistakes but acknowledge how they can learn from them and move on. Be aware of theories and how to apply them effectively. Language arts is the biggest part of an early elementary grade classroom. The practice of asking both convergent and divergent questions is pushed to form higher level critical-thinking skills. Make sure to keep the physical appearance of your room organized and enticing for the children so the demands of what to do during the day happen more efficiently and smoothly. The idea that each individual is unique and should be accepted is outlined as a must for teachers to keep aware of at all times. There are different types of diversity including cultural, academic, cognitive, and linguistic. Be in tune with the traditions of the community that your school is in. We should be promoting that people have alternative life choices and human rights and respect to our classes. Children have special needs that must be addressed and taken care of to the best of our ability and we cannot give up on any child that is under our care sitting in a desk in front of us. An idea that was given is to label things in the classroom.

2. "Live a balanced life- learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some" - Robert Fulghum (p.39). I have always loved this quote and think that it is a good rule of thumb and to refer to it when teaching. Balance in life is a state that even though hard to find at times, is something that we should always strive for. The quote is pretty self explanatory and promotes well-roundedness which is good for children in learning how to do things as they grow up.

3. There is a part on page 59-60 that says that instead of referring to American society as a "melting pot", it is like a "tossed salad". I thought that this was interesting and reflects the idea that everyone is an individual and contributes to the whole. I liked the metaphor and how it makes you think about multicultural issues.

4. I liked the "Peering into the Classroom" section. The detailed description of the classroom set-up and how things were run in the routines was a nice read. I liked how the teacher wrote a letter to the students before the school year. I think that is a good gesture to get the year started off on the right foot and would make students who are a little uneasy about the beginning of a new grade more comfortable. She seems like she is on top of her game concerning finding ways to meet the needs of her students and I want to do that as well.

5. I personally like having the low music being played in the background of class. I think that it subconsciously lifts your mood and gives the environment a good energy flow. I think children would like it as well and with the appropriate music, it will be a good experience for everyone.

Comments

1. Your summary is really well-written and is straight to the point!

2. I never heard this quote before but it is very motivational about how everyone should live especially teachers. It is important that we all get to experience a little bit of everything in our lifetimes!

3. I really enjoyed this too and included it in my own blog. The more things in a salad the better it is! A salad comes in millions of ways and so do people, that's what makes diversity so interesting.
4. I definitely agree! A top priority of any teacher should be meeting the needs of students by any means necessary!

5. I agree to this as well. I think it keeps everyone more open-minded and especially relaxed!

1. Your summary is super and as Tammy states, to the point. I esp. like the words, "Do not highlight mistakes but acknowledge how they can learn from them and move on." The brightest people learn from their mistakes and the errors of others. Let's all do this and move on.

2. Yes, let's all be balanced and instruct our students to live a balanced lives, too.

3. Absolutely, the melting pot philosophy is archaic and offensive to many people. No one wishes to see their culture melt into another and disappear. The tossed salad or quilt analogies are more current as the express an inclusion with destruction. We can see and appreciate the cultural contributions without mutating them as we see them as varietal ingredients in the salad of society or as fabric-patterns within the quilts of our societal make up.

4. Use the text as a reference for developing your own classroom and schedule of learning. Farris presents a nice starting point.

5. Thank you for your voteS of confidence related to the instrumental background music that hopefully "sets the stage for learning".

---

Post on June 15 2008 (permalink)
Created on Sunday, 06/15/2008 6:51 PM by Kylie

1. In chapter 2, Farris discusses the importance of children and teachers in the classroom. Children, in the younger grades tend to see their teachers more as idols than merely average people. In the classroom, children have a natural curiosity and desire to learn that goes hand-in-hand with their wanting to be accepted by others. It is important for teachers to set realistic but challenging goals. Farris next discusses the major topic of diversity in the classroom. The term diversity often refers to people, who are members of the non-dominant groups such as those who are culturally, socioeconomically, racially, linguistically, physically, and cognitively different from those in dominant groups. The dominant group tends to be white, middle-or-upper classes which historically have enjoyed more political, social, economic, and educational advantages in the U.S. society. Next, Farris discusses the environment of a classroom. The classroom needs to be an enriching learning place. Bright colors on bulletin boards and organized cabinets, storage bins, and classroom library; these are just a few things that add to a successful classroom. Lastly, Farris provides great tips to help students feel welcome and relaxed in the classroom. These students include ELL as well as other students who may not fit in the “norm” of a classroom.

1. “Effective teachers have perseverance” (pg. 47). I really like this quote because, even now, I
develop lessons that I wonder if students would be able to understand or will know the answers or the purpose? This quote is great because it lets me know that being a risky teacher is ok and if I mess up its fine and if they don’t get it then I will try it again by maybe in another way until the students understand.

1. On page 57, Farris talks about the importance for teachers to recognize types of diversity in the classroom. I think many great history lessons can come from a student’s cultural background. If you have diversity in a classroom, establish a mutual respect, and then celebrate it.

1. On page 56, Farris talks about literacy centers. I think that this is a great idea in order for you to get some personal time with specific students such as if students need tested or min-guided reading lessons etc. Farris gives each center a clear focus and then makes suggestions for each. I think this is a great resource that is already figured out for me!

1. On page 49, Farris gives an example of a daily schedule in a classroom. I know when I think about running my own classroom I wonder how things will flow and how will everything and ever subject be covered in one day, week, month, or academic year. I am a very visual learner so seeing a day planned out on paper is very beneficial for me.

Comments

1. Your summary is short neat and sweet. I like how you said that children have a hard time seeing their teachers as real people who do ordinary things. I remember thinking it was so funny to see my teachers shopping, even though my own mom is a teacher it was still weird when I was younger.

2. I like the quote and the explanation you gave. Teachers don't have all the answers and are learning right by the side of their students.

3. I agree. Diversity should be celebrated and children need to appreciate it too!

4. I like literacy centers and will refer to it too! We are working smarter, not harder ha!

5. The daily schedule is a good way to keep organized and to know what needs to be done when.

Sunday, 06/15/2008 11:28 PM by Julie

1. I agree with Julie, your summary is super. I esp. like how you refer to diversity it is a superb definition and should be put to memory, “The term diversity often refers to people, who are members of the non-dominant groups such as those who are culturally, socioeconomically, racially, linguistically, physically, and cognitively different from those in dominant groups.”
2. Yes, this profession is a tough job and only the strong-will, persevering people remain as effective instructors.

3. Gardner has been know to state that when working in groups, he prefers to have as much diversity as possible because the ideas that develop are so much richer and vibrant than if everyone is the same.

4. Literacy Centers are loved by students; they provide them with choices and opportunities to learn by themselves and in smaller groups.

5. Use this text as a reference and consider Farris schedule as a template that you will eventually tailor to your students and for yourself.

1. You did a great job summarizing the chapter in a concise and understandable way.

2. I like that you made the quote personal with your explanation.

3. Diversity needs to be celebrated in the classroom, and I liked that you chose this from the chapter.

4. Literacy centers are something that should be a part of all elementary classrooms!

5. I discussed the schedule as well- it will definitely come in handy!

Christine (permalink)
Created on Sunday, 06/15/2008 6:28 PM by Christine

1. Chapter Two of Farris is titled *Children and Teachers in the Classroom*. Children enter school with a great enthusiasm to learn that must be nurtured by understanding teachers that set challenging goals. Children learn best when they are learning about a topic that interests them or about a topic that is relevant to themselves. Effective teachers are those who experienced readers, writers, and thinkers. They have perseverance, a sense of optimism, hold high expectations for their students, and have an underlying determination to be a success in the classroom. The general principles that guide outstanding classroom teachers are to: create a natural critical learning environment, get students’ attention and keep it, start with where the students are not where the textbook says they should be, seek commitments, help students learn outside the classroom, and create diverse learning experiences. The two views of learning are direct approach and constructivist view. The direct approach to learning is organized and structured while the constructivist view to learning is continuous, spontaneous, and effortless. Teachers need to be flexible in the daily structure of their classroom. Most of the day is taken up by language arts instruction up until third grade. Teachers may need to adjust lessons if more time is needed on a topic or may need to have fillers to take up extra time in the day. The classroom environment is important to
student learning. The classroom should be organized and structured with bulletin boards, storage cabinets, table format, a classroom library, and even color coded books for different reading levels or genres. Teachers must meet the needs of diverse students. There are three types of diversity: **academic** (learning style or pace), **cultural** (refers to student’s family, background experiences, and socioeconomic group), and **linguistic** (varying dialects). ELL students may need to have classroom items labeled with primary and secondary languages, books written in the student’s primary language, and should be encouraged to bring in artifacts about their culture.

2. “Live a balanced life- learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work everyday some.” (pg 39) I liked this quote because we do need to do the things that we enjoy sometimes to keep our lives balanced. We learned and enjoyed all of these things as children and should still be enjoying them as adults.

3. I found it interesting that research shows that retaining or failing a student can increase the drop out rate of the student by 40 or 50 percent.

4. This chapter states that research shows students who are taught by caring, knowledgeable teachers perform higher than students taught by teachers who fail to try and understand their students. I see how this is true because our students have to trust us and feel comfortable with us to be able to learn and do well.

5. I did not know that the No Child Left Behind requires students to have 90 minutes of uninterrupted reading each week until I read this chapter.

**Comments**

1. Your summary is brilliant and I esp. like the inclusion of these two sentences, “Effective teachers are those who experienced readers, writers, and thinkers. They have perseverance, a sense of optimism, hold high expectations for their students, and have an underlying determination to be a success in the classroom.” Here we have a foundation to build our classrooms upon. Become the effective teacher!

2. I agree, let's all live a balanced life and teach our students to do the same.

3. Yes, so let's start seeing retention and failure as not an option. We can and should educate all. We can do it, it just takes perseverance and the ideals that you listed in #1 for the effective teacher.

4. Absolutely, we must be the nurturers, the caretakers, because if not us, who?

5. Yes, and many schools create an even larger literacy block. This extended time, if used wisely and properly, can be a godsend for developing finely tuned writing and reading skills.

Monday, 06/16/2008 11:12 AM by **DAVID**
4. Teachers need to be good listeners and the students need to know that their teachers care about them as a person as well as their learning at the same time.

5. I did not know this either and I think it can be extremely beneficial to students.

Monday, 06/16/2008 4:22 PM by Melissa

Stephanie (permalink)
Created on Thursday, 06/12/2008 1:20 PM by Stephanie

1. Chapter 2 focuses on children and teachers in the classroom. Children have a natural curiosity and exhibit a wide range of interests in the world around them. As students enter school, the interactions between their peers, teachers, and family brings in new knowledge that is built onto the child's previous knowledge. As children question and ponder the world around them, they create new strategies and rely more on their creative and critical thinking skills. Farris touches on effective teaching and some guidelines to follow: create a natural critical learning environment, get students' attention and keep it, start with where the students are, seek commitments, help students learn outside of class, and create diverse learning experiences. A classroom full of children should have a daily schedule and structure to follow. Children love to have set schedules because they feel safe and are not surprised by much. It is however, okay to have flexibility in the classroom, because there are always some circumstances that will not go as planned. Effective teachers respect their students, and are facilitators to learning. Farris also explains how to create an enticing classroom environment. The chapter moves on from there to talk about diversity in the classroom such as: academic or cognitive diversity, cultural, linguistic, etc... The classrooms today are becoming increasingly more diverse with special needs, ELLs, and cultural students. The teacher's main priority should be to meet the needs of each and every student. Farris explains certain things that the teacher can do to be sure to teach and understand every student.

2. "Children possess a natural curiosity and desire to learn that is coupled with their wanting to be accepted by others" (Pg. 43). I choose this quote because it is very true, each child wants to learn, but when the learning becomes boring or a frustration on the child, some children learn to dislike school. I feel it is our jobs as teachers or community members to build off of their own natural curiosity and relate the learning to themselves. You can also see in school that young children focus a lot on their friends, and many of the issues that accrue are because of friendship issues.

3. I liked how Dr. Walker got us working on visualization in class yesterday. Kim's game is a very good way to increase someone's memory and to look for details of items. I was not shocked that I had remembered most of the items and majority of the details because I am a visual learner. It is a very good way to get kids thinking about details when they are looking at something because most of the standards tests have pictures with the questions relating to the details in the pictures.

4. I was happy to go over the children's unit assignment. I was very nervous because I thought that we had to make lessons for each of the activities. However, I was very happy to hear that we only had to explain the activity that we would do. After hearing the details of the assignment, I do not feel that it will be too hard to complete, even though it is still a lot of work for only two weeks.

5. I like how Dr. Walker discussed the Project Achieve with us. I feel that it is a good idea to have children work on their own problem solving first, and then if different solutions do not work, they can seek adult help. A lot of times, kid's go to get help from other people first, and they are not able to gain the problem solving skills and critical thinking skills that they need later on in life. I like the posters that went along with the project.

Comments

1. Summary is very well thought out and includes main topic areas. Nice work

2. I agree- I think this quote is very straight forward and it is a mix of social and academics through out schooling.
3. I liked that game too—hearing that others liked it as well reassures me that it was successful.

4. I think there is a lot of work to be done and this next week will be a handful.

5. The concept for Project Achieve is very interesting and it is a great idea.

1. I agree with Kylie, your summary is filled with lovely ideas that connect well to the chapter. I esp. like the words, "...create a natural critical learning environment, get students' attention and keep it, start with where the students are, seek commitments, help students learn outside of class, and create diverse learning experiences." Yes, we all need to recall these aspects of a productive learning environment and embrace it in respect.

2. Academics and socialization need to go hand-in-hand. Let’s create inviting lessons that allow our students to learn both.

3. I am pleased with all of the positive comments related to Kim’s Game. Try it and sprinkle it throughout the year.

4. Trust me, the assignment is doable and will be usable in your future classrooms.

5. Project Achieve promotes life-skills. Here we instruct students how to deal with their problems by actively thinking of solution strategies.

-- Larissa

1. Chapter two entitled *Children and Teachers in the Classroom* takes a look at effective teachers and how important it is to care about your profession in order to be a quality educator. The chapter opens with a synopsis of children and their natural desire and curiosity towards learning. This enthusiasm needs to be heightened in the classroom and because children learn best when they are interested in a topic that relates to them personally, teachers need to be aware of this when teaching. Farris provides a list of various principles that guide classroom teachers and also offers a multitude of character traits of effective teachers. Such as, being experienced readers writers and thinkers, having perseverance, always holding high expectations for students, being aware of learning theories, never forgetting the individual child and also creating a warm and inviting classroom environment. Farris touches on the importance of being flexible as a teacher but simultaneously providing a classroom that is organized and structured and aids in student learning. Classroom structures that are beneficial for students include grouping desks together, having accessible shelves for the class library, space to display student produced writings, and also having a literacy center. Teachers also need to be aware of the different types of diversity that exists in every classroom. Academic and cognitive diversity refers to a student’s unique learning pace and style, cultural diversity is a student’s background related to family and SES, and linguistic diversity includes ELL’s and students with a varying dialect. There are four classroom approaches to dealing with diversity in the classroom and promoting respect by the students for students. The first approach is teaching the cultural different as if their differences hinder their education and create a deficiency in the student, the second approach is...
centered around human relations promotes self-confidence and acceptance of all students, the third approach outlined is a single group studies approach where the class focuses on one diversity at a time, the fourth approach consists of complete multicultural education that supports equality and pluralism, and finally the fifth approach is a reconstructionist approach where all class activities deal with current events and problems within society. The chapter concludes with a look at how ELL’s and students with special needs learn differently and accommodations effective teachers should make for these students in the classroom.

2. “To quote a saying found on a coffee mug in a teachers’ lounge, ‘those who can, teach. Those who can’t, go into some lesser profession’ (p. 43). This quote struck me because it reminded me of a clip someone sent me one day entitled What Teachers Make performed by Taylor Mali. I have a lot of friends who are engineering majors, it feels horrible when they say things like ‘yeah, well, you’re just an education major’. If you have time, you should watch this Taylor Mali video- he is so inspiring! --> http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RxsOVK4syxU&feature=related

3. I thought the idea of a “filler pack” on page 50 by the student teacher was a really good one. Instead of wasting those moments in between transitions by collecting short educational activities it will benefit students and not waste precious time you have to teach your students.

4. I like the last thought this chapter leaves you with, if ELL’s are to achieve in our schools and perform to meet the high expectations mandated by No Child Left Behind they need to learn in an inviting classroom. By providing children’s literature in their language and encouraging them to share their culture with the class I think students who don’t speak English will feel less isolated and are more likely to learn.

5. I thought the research on younger children with summer birthdays was interesting, I was wondering how validated this research was though. I know some people who are young summer birthdays and are above average learners, while others are summer birthdays who chose to enter a grade later as suggested is better by the research, and are just the same. Each learner is different, I’m not sure how effective it is to group students like this in a research study but it was interesting to read nonetheless.

Comments

1. The verdict is clear, “...children and their natural desire and curiosity towards learning.” We must use these elements to develop lessons that keep student desire to learn alive and to pique their curiosity whenever possible. Your summary is right on target.

2. I watched the You-Tube video clip and was very impressed with his words. However, I was horrified to read the postings under the clip. Boy, there is a great deal of anti-teacher sentiment flowing in the postings after such a strong and passionate video. “Teachers mold the future and never give up their class.” is one of my favorite quotes.

3. I used to have designated cubbies for students to submit work and never wasted the time collecting papers.

4. We must always bring everyone to the table of learning not matter what their native language, IQ score, or any other factor they are dealing with in their lives. Public education is for all.

5. Generalizations are hard to make with accuracy, especially in education. I have found from my own
experiences that sometimes the summer birth dates are a factor in the negative and sometimes they have been positive elements in certain students. Developmental levels occur whenever they wish and nurturing has a great deal to do with readiness.