

Clara Brown

Mrs. Wehmann

Introduction to Teaching

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Teacher Platform

Being a teacher is a difficult responsibility, being a teacher is more than just teaching. Teaching seems like a daunting task, but I still want to be one because of how my past teachers have influenced me. As a teacher I will be able to show kids that they are smart even if they are slower or not always right. Even if the students make multiple mistakes it does not make them dumb. All students learn in different ways and I want to show students that no matter which way they learn they are still smart. As a student I struggled with math and I had to be put into a fundamental math class. When I was placed into this class I felt dumb and that I was not as good as the other students. The other students in that class did not care as much about school as I did. I felt out of place in my new class. But the teacher in that class made me feel smart. I would actually try and answer the questions out loud and if I made a mistake she helped me correct myself and did not make a big deal of the mistake. In that math class I excelled and did the best I have ever done in a math class. Next year I had a different math teacher and he was just like my last teacher. He pushed us and made us ask questions and he showed us that no matter how long it takes you to understand something you are still smart. Before these two teachers I hated math more than anything. But these two teachers took a subject that many students struggle with and made me feel smart and that no matter how much I struggle, I am still smart. As a teacher I can be there for my students and show them that it is fine if they are slower than the

other students, they are still smart. No matter how long it takes a student to understand something or how many answers they get wrong they are still smart and are still worth putting effort in. Also as a teacher I can be a role model to the students, and I can make my classroom a safe place for them to learn from their mistakes. I can be a difference in the student's lives. As a teacher I know that I cannot forever change the students or I might not even make a difference, but I can try to be the kind of teacher, just like the ones that changed my life all though out my education.

Being a teacher takes many different aspects but the main five, I think, are, as a teacher we have to create a space for the students that promote learning (Standards for Ohio Educators). Next teachers also need to know their students and how they learn (Knowing our Students as Learners). Thirdly, a teacher has to be loving, caring, and a good example to the students (Becoming a Teacher). Next teachers need to be able to plan and deliver the material for the advancement of each individual student (Standards for Ohio Educators). Lastly, teachers have to collaborate with the parents and other teachers (Standards for Ohio Educators). I believe with these aspects you can be a great teacher and be an amazing role model, by showing the students that they are smart and that they are able to do great things.

Teachers need to create a learning environment to promote learning and achievement (Standards for Ohio Educators). The classroom should be a safe place for the students and it should help make learning fun and have different ways of presenting the material. Every student learns differently, and as a teacher we have to make the classroom a place that helps all the different ways that students learn that way they can be the best. If the classroom has too many distractions, like to many posters on

the wall, or having other students up and walking around then the students will get lost in all the distractions. Teachers need to have a good in-between, the classroom still has to have some educational posters to help promote what the students are learning. If a classroom is just plain with no color the class will feel sad and the students will grow bored, with the posters and bulletin boards in the room it show that learning can be fun by incorporating fun themes of the bulletin boards and the bright colors will show that learning and school does not always have to be boring. Making a classroom a place for learning also means making the classroom a safe place where the students are not afraid to make mistakes and take chances. Teachers that make their classroom a safe place lets the students learn better because the student can try different things and not be afraid of being judge when they make a mistake. If the classroom feels safe to the students then the students will engage more and ask more questions. If the classroom feels unsafe to the students they will not engage and they will not ask questions out loud, for the fear of being judge. It is also the teachers' job to make the classroom like a team or a family so the students will work together for the betterment of each individual student. To create a learning environment a teacher needs to know that all the students learn differently, so as the teacher teaches there has to be a diversity to the teaching to keep the students engaged. A teacher can never have the perfect classroom where the students are always engaged, but as a teacher we have to try. All students are different and all teachers are different, everyone learns different and everyone teaches different, and as the teacher we have to teach in a way that advances the students.

Being a teacher means that you know each student and how they learn (Knowing Our Students as Learners). Just knowing how the students

learn and the best way to teach is not enough to be an effective teacher. To be an effective teacher you have to know about the students. The teacher needs to know about the students home life to understand why they are struggling or why all of sudden their grades are going down. Making the classroom safe for students to make mistakes will help them to learn better, because they will not be afraid to try things. Knowing the student's life will help make the teacher make the students feel safer. In elementary my grandmother passed away, I had to miss school for the funeral and my teacher got all my papers ready for me and when I got back she asked me how I was doing and made sure that I understood things since I had missed a day. Even though I had only missed a day my teacher had everything ready for me to stay caught up. But when I got older and went to middle school I got very ill and missed a whole week of school, and one of my teachers was not very organized so I did not have any of my papers and I did not know what I missed. So the teacher had a student teach me and I got even further behind. I never really understood what I missed and when I went through high school I realized I never learned what I missed that week. After some time and with many questions I finally got caught up with the class, even though I was still very confused. In the first instance my teacher helped me and knew what was happening to keep me caught up with the class, but in the second instance my teacher was unorganized so I fell behind in my class.

As a teacher we have to be aware of what is happening in our student's lives, so we can help the kids stay with the rest of the class. Teachers also should know how their students learn. All children learn differently, some kids learn better with hands on and some other kids learn better by just listening. No teacher can fully know how each individual

student learns, but as a teacher we have to use different techniques to teach the students. Some of the different techniques are, having centers so the kids can move around and do hands on projects, also a teacher can just lecture to the students and have them take notes to follow along. Presenting the material in different ways also helps the students remember the material better. But the teacher can also present the material in different ways to keep the students engaged, like showing them a movie about the material they are learning about, or have them do group projects about the different subjects. A teacher cannot just lecture constantly and pass out tests, some students will learn nothing that way. As a teacher we need to be able to have each lesson be able to effectively help the auditory, visual, verbal, and kinesthetic learners ([Overview of Learning Styles](#)). Even though as a teacher you can never know for sure what type of learner each student is, or if the different ways of presenting the material will work, the teacher still has to be able to teach all of the students effectively and has to be able to keep all the students engaged.

As a teacher we have to be loving, caring, and a good example to the students ([Becoming a Teacher](#)). The teacher is around the kids more than the parents are sometimes, so as a teacher we have to be like a parent and help the kids by being an example. Teachers need to be strict but also have a loving spirit. I have seen many of teachers that constantly yell at the students, the students in those classes begin to hate being there and they grow to hate school. In the book, *Becoming a Teacher*, it says "...teachers are idolized by their young students." Teachers have a big influence on their students, if a teacher is constantly yelling at the students, it will make the kids have bad memories from school, so soon they start to hate school. A teacher has to show their students that they are dedicated to them and

want to see them succeed not just in school but in life. If a student feels encouraged and loved they will strive to impress the teacher and do their best.

Teachers cannot be buddy-buddy with the students either. If a teacher becomes too much of a friend, then the students will lose respect for the teacher. I had an English teacher my freshman year of high school that only cared about being friends with the students. She would joke around with the students and they had each other's phone number. I was one of the students that still treated her like a teacher, and it was frustrating because I could see who the favorite students were and I felt the teacher did not care as much about me. Teachers have a huge impact on students for either good or bad.

I had another English teacher my senior year of high school. This teacher was loved by all the students and for good reason, he would push us to do our best and he would push us to go beyond the simple, surface level ideas but to dig deeper. As I worked on my different papers and homework in that class I would try my hardest to do my very best so that I could show him how good of a teacher he was. My teacher would go over our papers with us and show us where we made mistakes, but he never made us feel dumb, it was almost like he was encouraging us and pushing us to do better. And he never corrected us in front of the class so he would not embarrass us.

Both of my teachers were great teachers but only one left a good impact on me, the smallest things can leave the biggest impact on the students. If a teacher lets their students know that they are loved and that they care about their well-being then the students will try harder to impress their teacher and do the best they can to show the teacher how well they

can really do. Teachers do not only teach the subjects like math and English, but teachers also teach basic life skills to the students. As a teacher we teach the kids how to organize their homework so in the future they can be organized, we also teach the students how to interact with their peers and how to be a better person. Being a good a role model is difficult job but as a teacher it is one of the many difficult challenges, but it is a challenge that is worth the effort to conquer, to help impact the student's lives.

As a teacher we need to plan and deliver knowledge for the advancement for each individual student (Standards for Ohio Educators). Teachers usually worry about their class as a whole, but a teacher also needs to be concerned with each individual student. A teacher needs to check up on each individual student and make sure they are not falling behind. I had a teacher that whenever we had quiet work time she would walk around and make sure we were understanding the papers and the instructions. Also as she was grading our tests and noticed that many of us missed a question she would explain it to our class and make sure we all understood it. And if any of the students did poorly on a test she would call us up to her desk and help us through what we missed.

A teacher also has to be aware of individual disabilities. Some students will have mental disabilities, with these students the teacher will need to have more patience and understanding. A student with mental disabilities is no less of a student, just like the other students they learn differently and maybe a little slower, but being a teacher is all about challenges. Some of the students will have Individual Education Plan (IEP). An IEP is from the government that says this student will need extra help in the classroom (What is an IEP?) If a student has an IEP they will need

special help in the classroom, like sitting in the front of the classroom or getting the notes printed out for them. A teacher has to be aware of these needs, and have a healthy balance so the other students do not think the teacher is showing favoritism.

When teaching younger kids they will not understand as easy as the older students will, that some of their classmates need extra help. As a teacher we have to show the students that everyone is equal but everyone is a different type of learner. Each student learns differently but some students are slower learners than others, and as the teacher we have to be prepared to teach all different type of learners. Teachers need to be sure that they communicate instructions clearly and be sure that all the students understand what they are supposed to do. Having a class full of different learners makes teaching difficult that is why as a teacher you have to check up on each student individual to make sure no student is falling behind and that every student understand what is going on in the classroom.

Teachers need to collaborate with parents and other teachers (Standards for Ohio Educators). A brand new teacher or any teacher cannot do their job alone. A teacher can collaborate with a teacher that has more experience to help them with lessons plans or how to better communicate with the students and parents. Having someone who has been though what you are about to start helps it seem less scary and it shows you that you too can get through it too. As a teacher you are part of a team with your grade level and the whole school. You have to work with your grade level team so that all the classes are on the same page, and as a teacher you will need help from the secretaries and principals.

A teacher also needs to communicate with the parents. Building a relationship with the parents lets the parents feel like they are involved with

their children and that they know what is going on in their student's classroom and education. Teachers only do half of the job and the parents do the other half, if a child goes home and their parents do not encourage learning or doing their homework the child will fall behind. But if the parents are included in the classroom and know what is happening in the education they will be more than happy to help their kids and encourage them more. Also the classroom should not be off limits to the parents, the parents should be allowed in the classroom. I had many teachers that had parent's days in my class. If we had big projects we had to present, the parents could come in and watch us present. We would also write small stories and then we would have a party and our parents could come watch us read our stories to the class. Having my mom in the class made me want to do better and show off how much I had learned. If the child feels that their parents are supporting them in their education they will try harder and try to impress their parents by doing their best and getting better grades in school. And if the parents feel welcome they will have a better opinion of the teacher and be more supportive of the school and the education. Communicating with other teachers helps you as a teacher do better, and communicating with the parents helps you and the students do better and makes for a better relationship.

Being a teacher is more difficult than people want to believe, because being a teacher is a big responsibility. As a teacher it is not just about teaching the students a bunch of knowledge so that they will pass a test. Being a teacher means that you are a role model, a friend, an encourager. A teacher has the ability to change a student's life forever. I can remember all of my teachers but the teachers that I remember the most are the ones who had an impact on my life. I remember the teachers who took time out

of their days to help me do better in my education. I had one teacher when I was in the second grade help me every day after school, and when the other kids found out and started to make fun of me, the teacher covered the windows of her classroom so the kids could not see in. It was a simple thing that my teacher did but it left a huge impact on me that she cared enough about me to cover the windows. Another one of my teachers would talk to me every day and ask me how I was doing. Whenever I went through hard times in my education my teachers were there to help me through them.

But I also remember the teachers who yelled constantly at my class or did not seem to care about teaching us. I had a teacher who yelled at us all the time and then she would fall asleep in our class when we had quite time. One time the teacher lost one of my papers while I was sick, so when I got back to class she lectured me about how I did not turn the paper in. A week later my teacher had found my paper and never told me or apologized to me. I did not have many bad experiences with teacher but the few I did I never forgot.

Either good or bad teachers have a big influence on students. Teachers have to be careful when we are in the classroom because the students are always watching and observing what the teacher is doing. If a teacher always roll her eyes, or laughs at the students behind their back it will show the students that as a teacher we really do not care for the students and the students will lose respect for the teacher. A teacher has a big influence on the students' lives. So as a teacher we have to show our students that they are cared for and that they have a bright future ahead of them as long as they try their best. When a student makes a mistake we

should not make them feel like they should feel bad about it, but that they should learn from their mistake instead.

Teaching is a hard job, and it is not always easy. As a teacher we have the opportunity to change the lives and mind of our students.

Teaching is a big responsibility, and with this responsibility we have to be sure we help encourage the students to become better students and people.

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