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NFD 101

Teaching Philosophy

What is the recipe for student success? The key ingredients are a highly-qualified teacher who is proficient in his/her field, a student population who is eager to learn and willing to take challenges, and a classroom environment filled with engaging activities for optimal learning. My primary goal as an early childhood/elementary instructor is to prepare my students to be effective teachers in early childcare and elementary school settings. Therefore, I believe my goal as an instructor is to act as a facilitator, to scaffold student learning, and to allow my students to engage in active learning experiences in order to become life-long learners and successful members of the workplace.

The primary goal of a game is to entertain. Why not base instructional design around the same concept? I base my instruction around this game-based concept because learners in my classroom should be active in problem solving and critical thinking. Learners should be required to focus on a goal and the tasks to complete the goal, so making the learning experience entertaining will allow for active student engagement. Interactive lectures, cooperative learning groups, and authentic activities enhance the curriculum while offering challenging, yet real-life opportunities to acquire new skills and knowledge. My role in the classroom is to teach my students based on the goals and objectives of the course. I am there to scaffold the learning process and allow my students to be a part of an interactive learning environment. My classroom becomes a center for differentiated tasks and inquiry-based learning while still following developmentally appropriate practice. All of these components are critical for effective teaching.

The concept of mastery learning guides my outlook for designing my differentiated instruction. My lessons are based on well-defined measurable performance objectives and on the needs of the diverse learners in my classroom. Because student success is the basis of my teaching philosophy, mastery learning is a required component of my beliefs as well. Allowing opportunities to master concepts, providing an adequate amount of time to complete assignments, offering corrective feedback, and implementing formative assessments throughout a course to assess are all components of master learning that I abide by. The only way to achieve true success is to allow for ample opportunities to master the objective at hand. As an educator, my success is based on my students’ success, and this is my driving force for reaching my fullest potential as a highly-qualified teacher who is proficient in my field.