

Kimberly Smith's Educational Philosophy

My philosophy of education is that every child deserves a quality education in a safe and nurturing environment. Using everything at my disposal, I believe it is my job to teach the "whole" child: emotionally, spiritually, physically, and mentally. Children have the right to learn in a loving, accepting, and developmentally appropriate environment.

When my students walk into my classroom, I want them to feel a sense of connection with their classmates and me, as if a part of a "school family". Through our building a special "school family" relationship, I believe the children take on a sense of pride and ownership in how well the class is run. They will want their friends to be successful, and they will want to do their best in all they do. The children will want to be helpful and thoughtful to others. By playing an active and responsible role in our classroom family, each child will practice daily the essential skills of empathy, self-regulation, helpfulness, fairness, mood awareness, stress-relief, and kindness.

I am excited to greet each child as they come to my class. I look at this time together as a great adventure in learning, growing and maturing. It is my job to assess the students when they first come into my class to see what they know and where I can best meet their needs. Assessments will continue throughout the school year so that I can note mastery of skills or the need for remediation. I strive for an open relationship with the children's parents. My hope is that we can work together as a team. I realize that we both have the same goal: we want their child to reach their full potential in a developmentally appropriate way. I will make myself available to answer any questions or concerns the parents may have regarding their child's behavior, skills progress, spiritual or physical growth.

I believe the classroom instruction should encompass all styles of learning. I understand that children learn and process information differently. It is my job to learn how each child learns best and provide for them individualized instruction that meets their needs. My whole group, small group, and learning centers will provide the children with a wide array of activities using auditory, kinesthetic, and visual techniques. I will use technology when appropriate to enhance, enrich, and remediate the curriculum. The children will be given a lot of opportunities to problem solve in small groups. I enjoy giving the children hands-on, enriching activities so that they can explore their world around them and learn from one another.

It is my responsibility to maintain my Florida Teacher Certification at all times and to continuously be mindful of the trends in education. I will do my best to exceed the expectations of my Principals, co-workers and students' parents. My goal is to continuously learn new things and be a loving, thoughtful, and conscientious teacher.

I will always strive to teach in a classroom where all of my students feel safe, loved, nurtured, accepted, and enriched. I want to help each child to be their best self, reaching their full potential that is developmentally appropriate for them. My hope is that I am able to point them to Jesus everyday through my words and actions.