Philosophy of Education and Role of Technology

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ETEC 500 – Baek

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As a future educator I have I will continuously strive to produce the best environment for my students. This includes understanding myself and my students and creating a philosophy that enables both of us to achieve greatness. As technologies makes there way into classrooms of all grade levels it is important that educators are educated on how to implement it into their classrooms as well as understanding the technology so they can teach proper use of the technology.

I believe an educational philosophy should not be too specific, as teachers grow and students change there will be techniques and views that will shift in order to meet the needs of students.   The three theories that speak to me are the Behavioral Learning Theory, Constructivism, and Gagne’s Theory of Instruction.   Positive feedback is a crucial part of the learning process, "For instance, a learner who is rewarded with a teacher's smile for paying attention in class will be ore likely to follow a teacher’s direction at a later time than one whose behavior goes unnoticed." (Reiser and Demsey, 36) A teacher can give constructive criticism to a student all they want but the results will be minimal if the teacher is not also pointing out good work/behavior that the student is producing. When feedback towards incorrect answers is mixed with positive feedback it creates a positive leaning environment for students. Contructivism is important because everyone needs to understand the concept of "knowing how to learn", relating the learned material to real life situation, and applying the information.  Reiser and Demsey list elements that should appear in a constructivism environment:

* engage learners in activities authentic to the discipline in which they are learning
* provide for collaboration and the opportunity to engage multiple perspectives on what is being learned;
* support learners in setting their own goals and regulating their own learning; and
* encourage learners to reflect on what and how they are learning.

The points provided are all factors that are all characteristics of a successful adult; therefore, I believe they should be implemented in the educational process at a very young age. Gagne’s theory is a more detailed theory that examines how different outcomes require different teaching skill sets, this is extremely important to recognize as an educator. I think if all educators added this to their philosophy of teacher they could accomplish more among students with different learning styles. Gagne’s requires that teachers are flexible in the execution of their lessons, depending on the content. According to Reiser and Dempsey this is Gagne’s list of 9 steps:

1.Gaining attention

2. Informing the learner of the objective

3. Stimulating recall of prior learning

 4. Presenting the stimulus

5. Providing learning guidance

6. Eliciting performance

7. Providing feedback

8. Assessing performance

9. Enhancing retention and transfer

In retrospect there is a lot of detail in this theory and one can get lost in it. It is definitely a good base to start with and can aid in maintaining a successful teaching/learning environment.

My philosophy, in short would be to provide a positive and comfortable learning environment that allows students to develop their own ideas and speak freely. They will think independently and have the ability to work with others.

 Technology has definitely made its debut into the educational world and the use of it is going to continue to grow. Proper instruction on the use of technology is a vital part of the modern day classroom and should be a consistent part of a teachers lesson plan. The more active the teacher is in designing the technology that is used in her classroom the more effective she will be in teaching her students to use it. The article “Teacher roles in designing technology-rich learning activities for early literacy: A cross-case analysis” studies teacher for 3 years and their role in the design of technology programs to be used in their classroom. The results show that the more involvement in the teacher has in the design the more efficient she is in using the program as a tool and the more valuable it becomes.

 As a teacher working with modern technology, I will study and learn the technology in order to present it to my students in a way that will be advantageous to their future. My students will learn how to apply their knowledge to real life situations and use the material they have learned to solve problems they may encounter.

Resources

Reiser, R., & Dempsey, J. (2002). *Trends and issues in instructional design and technology*. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Merrill/Prentice Hall.

Cviko, A., Mckenney, S., & Voogt, J. (2013). Teacher roles in designing

technology-rich learning activities for early literacy: A cross-case analysis.

  *Computers & Education,* 68-79. Retrieved November 4, 2014, from

EBSCOhost.

## Discussion Summary

Summarize this week's discussions. Use this template to structure your response:

1. Did you fulfill the requirement to make your first discussion post no later than Wednesday? Yes

B) Did you fulfill the requirement to post at least three times in each discussion topic by Saturday?yes

C) Briefly summarize the salient points from this week's discussion.

This week’s discussion focused on our personal philosophy of education in regards to what we have learned in ETEC 500 this quarter.

D) Quote your best post(s) from the week and explain why you feel these are the best.

My best quote this week was my initial response to the discussion topic. I put a lot ofthought into my response, especially considering it would be a great starting point for my assignment. I am very happy with my philosophy and I got a really nice response from my classmates!

I believe an education philosophy should not be too specific,  because as teachers grow and students change there will be techniques and views that will shift in order to meet the needs of students.

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E) Quote several of the best posts from other students. Explain why you chose the ones you present.

I really liked David Vasilia’s response to my post. It related and was informative:

 “I agree that this does seem like really good approach to teaching. I think that when you are too regimented in your approach, it can create a situation where you alienate some students and possibly stifle creativity. Knowing how to learn is really a deep concept, I have seen many publications in psychology on this topic where they suggest that most of how we absorb information about the world around us is established at an early age. I would assume that we take those tools of learning which we have already established within our selves and use them to adapt to situations where what is being asked of us is not in perfect alignment with the particular way we learn, but close enough to get us by.”

Sarah Wales brought up an excellent example of her use of existentialism and behaviorism. I love it when classmates are able to share their personal experiences that relate to our studies.

“For example, I had a middle school student who was reading at the Kindergarten level. He only had "baby books" to practice with, and he hated it. I created an authentic situation for him by asking him to practice reading a Kindergarten book so that he could read it to one of my Kindergarten students. This provided him with motivation while also allowing him to save face when reading a book meant for a much younger child. He was very proud of himself when he read the book to my Kinder kiddo, and the Kindergartener loved the experience too.”

F) What did you learn in the discussion this week that will be useful to you or that changes the way you view something?

I think I realized this week how much I learned in ETEC 500 and how effective a great instructor can be in an online course. If I had been given this question at the beginning of the quarter I don’t think I would have been able to come up with as much as a thoughtful and informative answer as I did. I think being in an education program continues to confirm the passion I have for teaching.