

PERSONAL FRAME OF REFERENCE

Tania Lavallee

Vancouver Island University

I would like to have a classroom that is collaborative, supportive and a safe environment that fosters positive growth and learning. I believe that each student is unique and has the potential to be successful. I feel that it is my job as a teacher to ensure that my classroom is inclusive for all students. For example, this can be done by adapting activities to ensure that all students are able to participate. As well another way to promote inclusivity within the classroom is by making general adaptations within my classroom, such as having visual day plans on the board.

Furthermore, I envision collaborative teamwork within my future classroom. I feel that it is important to work with students, parents, and colleagues in order to create a successful, supportive learning environment. I think that collaborative teamwork is a great way to incorporate other skills within the classroom, such as social skills and giving as well as receiving feedback skills. I also feel that it is important to work together with colleagues and parents to ensure that each students' individual learning needs are being met while all being on the same page. In terms of some of my values related to the classroom, something that I value is respect for all. I have come to the realization that it is important for students to be given the opportunity to be challenged in a respectful way to promote new learning, ideas, and growth.

Something else I value is safe community learning environments. As previously mentioned, I have a strong belief that in order for students to grow and develop as learners, it is important to create a safe environment that allows a chance for students to critically think and develop new ideas, beliefs, and values. I envision a safe classroom looking like a classroom with a teacher who has strong classroom management skills, I hope to one day be that teacher. Some management skills that I would like to take into my practice are attention grabbing techniques, such as using a chime or countdowns and how to successfully manage behaviors within my future classroom, such as setting up expectations within the classroom like daily routines, as well

as having classroom rules and expectations. I will stress safety within the classroom in order to promote a learning environment in which my future students feel safe, this links back to having clear guidelines and classroom rules.

In reflecting on my teaching style, I have come to the realization that I prefer to be hands on with the students rather than just lecturing. I would like to create a fun, engaging learning environment within my classroom that enables students to have the opportunity to explore, experience and learn within their environment. I will create lesson plans that involve using multimedia such as technology and hands-on activities. I also value being outdoors and believe that it is important to incorporate nature and the outdoors into the classroom in some form. This could look like going on field trips or simply taking the class outside as a way to connect learning to real life. As previously mentioned, I would like to incorporate collaborative teamwork and inclusion within my classroom. I envision this looking like ensuring all students are able to work together and participate in the daily activities. Inclusion to me also means being flexible and willing to adapt lesson plans in order to better suit the student's needs.

Additionally, thinking about my beliefs and values in terms of theorists, I feel that a lot of mine relates to Vygotsky. Vygotsky believed in each child having a zone of proximal development and in order to assess and assist children in promoting growth and development within their learning, we must look at what a child can do on their own, what they can do with assistance and finally what they can't do without assistance. Through looking at our students in such a way, I believe that we would be able to better assess and assist our students in their learning by recognizing their strengths and areas in which improvement is needed thus adapting lessons where need be. Furthermore, he also believed in allowing the children to be in charge of their own learning, this fits nicely with the new curriculum due to the fact that within the new

curriculum they are trying to incorporate more individualized learning.

I believe that assessment has to be fair, equal and provide an opportunity for students to grow and develop their learning. I feel that it is my job as an educator to keep in mind assessment for, as and of learning strategies when developing ways to assess students. As well, I feel that it is important to give the students an opportunity to be a part of the assessment process. One way in which I feel this can be done is by coming up with a list of guidelines together as a class for feedback as well as class rules. I feel that an activity like this would be beneficial to the class as it would demonstrate the effectiveness of giving everyone a voice and the importance of feeling important. I also have the belief that students are more likely to follow classroom guidelines if they are involved in the process of creating them as I feel that it can give them a sense of responsibility and importance. I would also like to incorporate self-assessments within my classroom in multiple forms, for example through rubrics and check-ins. I feel that the rubrics should be designed with students to include the learning outcomes so that the students have a clear understanding of what goals and outcomes they are working towards achieving. The rubrics would also be used as a form of assessment in which students rank themselves 1-3. 1 being unconfident, 2 being somewhat confident and 3 being fully confident related to the learning outcomes.

Furthermore, having an aboriginal background and going through the “Understanding the Village” workshop, I have recognized the importance of interrelating aboriginal knowledge within our curriculum since it is such an important part of our Canadian history. In conclusion, I feel that it is important to include everyone and be aware of the individual needs of our students, in order to do this, I believe that it is important to consider all the factors that impact our students, such as their culture, gender, economic status and their social, physical, mental status.