

My Philosophy on the Education of Children

By David Bonner

Respect

Students should first and foremost respect themselves as valuable human beings. They should learn to make good choices for both now and their future. Students should respect their classmates whether or not they choose to respect themselves. No student has the right to take away a healthy learning environment away from another student. Finally, students should respect their teachers because we have authentic life experience they can learn and grow from.

Rigor

The harder the task, the greater the sense of accomplishment and feeling of self-efficacy we can enjoy after a job well done. Completing an easy or trivial task does nothing to boost self-esteem. It is essential to challenge every child to reach his or her full potential. Every child can learn. We need to be sure they learn *well*.

Relationship

Caring teachers are *effective* teachers. This is the most important of the five R's. We process everything through emotion. We learn and retain knowledge better in a safe and welcoming environment. It is essential to create a nurturing learning environment through *positive* teacher-student, student-student, and parent-teacher interactions. We must be the silver lining every moment of every day.

Relevance

The entire purpose for having schools is to prepare the student to be successful in life. Every moment must be wisely spent teaching relevant content. Students should continually be asking, "Why?" as the driving force behind their education. If they don't see how it applies to them, they won't be engaged.

Responsibility

Students should be expected to take responsibility for themselves and their actions. No one else will take up the slack later in life. We can't ever assume that anyone owes us anything. We need to live in such a way that excuses are not necessary. If we all do that, we can change the world.