

The Key is to L.E.A.R.N.

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When I think about my classroom, the first thing I think of is the relationships. I want to create an environment which promotes self-growth. I also want to provide a comfortable home away from home for every single one of my students. The acronym, LEARN, combines what I have learned over the past four years and how I want to implement that knowledge in the classroom. My freshmen year, I said, “I believe a school is a place where students need to be motivated to achieve greatness, only something to be accomplished when a teacher is dedicated, organized, and caring.” I am responsible for student success, and my goal for each student is for them to become a better human along the way.

L-Life Skills

I believe school is a place of education, but it is a place to educate students in all facets of life. I will be teaching math; this is my content area. I also want to promote life skills for my students. They need to learn to be responsible, accountable, and respectable. Responsibility will be taught through assignments and studying for tests. With this, students will be accountable for their own actions. Whatever they put into the class is what they will get out of it. Although, I do not want students to use this as an excuse to do poorly. They will respect themselves and others, and this will promote a healthy classroom environment. A student who respects himself will strive to be successful. A student who respects his classmates will not be disruptive and will promote a productive classroom. Students will not be in it alone, which leads me to my next letter: E.

E-Energy

The energy of the classroom will determine the productivity and resilience of the overall environment. With that being said, I will bring positivity every day. In my own experiences, the

teacher's attitude impacts the students greatly. A negative attitude will allow the students to think negatively or become inattentive. A positive attitude can allow students to flourish. Students cannot be unsuccessful because I was not as happy as I could be; that would be unacceptable.

Another aspect of energy I would like to encompass is motivation. It is essential that I figure out what drives each of my students. This could be incentives, inspiring words, or lead by example. I am prepared to offer my students what they need to succeed. It all starts with a smile and understanding. Each student may need something different, which leads me to my next letter-A.

A-Accommodations

My practicum experiences have given me much insight to the importance of differentiated instruction. Relationships, the next topic to discuss, are an essential part of D.I. I need to understand how each of my students learn to implement this strategy. I also want to be flexible with my students. I understand that life happens. If I can make one accommodation in the classroom to make a student's life easier, I will. This is something I will do especially if it enhances learning.

Education is not a one size fits all environment. With this feature in my classroom, I also think it will be a form of motivation to drive students to do their best. Connecting this to life skills, it will help students understand that flexibility is essential, and each person can offer something great.

R-Relationships

In my classroom, relationships will be huge. I truly feel relationships are the foundation for learning. Without a relationship, students are missing out on the full learning experience. I want each student to feel valued and appreciated. I want to know about each student as a human,

not just a number. I plan to have journaling exercises weekly to get to know the students on a deeper level. Here, they will have the opportunity to tell me about things, good or bad, which are going on in their lives.

Greeting each student with a positive energy each day will also help this aspect of the classroom. If I can be genuinely happy to be in the classroom, hopefully each student will be happy being in attendance each day. As a life skill, respect for others will also help build relationships. I know each of my students will not like each other, but they will have a good classmate relationship with each other. Promoting positivity in the classroom will challenge any negative actions, and it sets the tone for the classroom.

N-Nurture

The nurture aspect of the classroom encompasses everything I want to promote in my classroom. I want to be accommodating to give students what they need. I want to promote life skills because students may not get that exposure at home. A smile in the classroom may be what keeps some students going. I want to be the cheerleader for each student, and make sure they know their worth. Each student excels at something. With the love I can provide, each student will hopefully be given the extra fuel they need to believe in themselves.

I know every student will have a different story. They will each come from a different home and have totally different circumstances. My classroom will provide a safe environment where they feel cared for and important. To nurture each student is to allow them to be their best self, and that is all I want for each student.

Conclusion

The motto of my classroom is to L.E.A.R.N. Each student will be given opportunities to learn life skills, and I will bring the energy daily to promote these skills. Every class will be different,

so I will make accommodations to allow for student success. This cannot be done without sturdy relationships. Relationships start with nurturing and love, so this is why I feel these are the essentials of my classroom. Each one builds off the other. I want my students to feel safe and valued. Four years ago, I said, "...the way I operate my classroom will have a huge impact on students and their futures." I believe this now more than ever. I know I am the variable which accounts for student success. With L.E.A.R.N. as my guideline, I can help create better humans every day.