

This Suit's for Wearing

Philosophy

Being a quality educator encompasses many aspects. Academically, it means creating a safe and inclusive environment that inspires lifelong learning. Engaging students in lessons that connect to their interests makes learning more personal and meaningful, fostering a stronger sense of connection in the classroom. Beyond academics, a great educator is compassionate and supportive, while most importantly building strong relationships where students feel valued and encouraged. They emphasize critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving, preparing students for real-world challenges rather than skills such as memorization. However, the most important role of an educator is building relationships and understanding each student's unique needs. Knowing how students learn, express their knowledge, and set goals allows teachers to support them effectively. By recognizing and embracing students' diverse needs and abilities, educators create a classroom environment built on trust, inclusion, and a strong sense of community. In regards to academics, being a quality educator can change with the content and curriculum but being a quality educator in regards to prioritizing relationships with students will never stop being the most important component.

Implications for teaching

Dr. Shelley Moore talks about in her video “Shelley Moore: Transforming Inclusive Education” uses the analogy of bowling to explain inclusion in teaching. Shelley talks about a 7-10 split, meaning that most teachers aim to hit the majority of the pins by shooting the ball down the middle, as opposed to aiming for the outside pins (Moore, n.d.). The pins in the middle represent the myth that is the “perfect child”, something that doesn't exist, and the outside pins were children who fall outside of that myth for varying reasons. Aiming for the outside pins when developing a classroom would mean to design a classroom or lesson plans that include those who usually feel excluded. This was an analogy that stuck with me when writing DI in a lesson plan, which is what the video is about, but also has such a strong theme when being a quality educator and the importance of inclusion.