Fostering Essential Dispositions in Young Children

Guidance for use of the video in your college course

Have students view the video at home before class meets.

Homework assignment:

- What do you think of when you hear the word Disposition?
- Look-up the word “Disposition”. Write the definition.
- Do you think it is a teacher’s role to address children’s dispositions? Why or why not?
- Watch the video.
- Take notes on each segment, summarizing the main points made.
  - Creative
  - Inquisitive
  - Flexible
  - Critical Thinkers
  - Purposeful and Reflective
  - Social Learners
- Come to class prepared to share your thoughts.

In class:

- Divide the class into 6 small groups.
- Have each student share their definitions with their small group and come up with a group definition for ‘Disposition’
- Have each group share with the class and write key words on board.
- Lecture: The importance of supporting positive dispositions in order to foster competent learners.
- Once the class has a shared understanding of the concept, assign each group one of the essential dispositions from the video.
- Have each group discuss the following in relation to their assigned disposition of focus:
  - Their own experiences as young children in school, and/or
  - What they’ve noticed in classrooms (if they have had clinical experiences), and
  - What they believe about the teacher’s role in fostering that disposition.
- Provide each group a large paper and markers. Have them create a poster that communicates the message they want to convey about the importance of that disposition.
- Have each group share (could also review the corresponding segment from the video before each presentation.)
- After each group shares, describe a few teaching strategies that promote that disposition.
- At the end of class, have each student reflect individually on their own dispositions and consider how that will affect their ability to foster them in their future students.

Resources:

- Dispositions: Definitions and Implications for Early Childhood Practices by Lilian Katz
- Developing Young Children’s Creativity: What can We Learn from Research? By Caroline Sharp

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