Every teacher has a philosophy that includes their system of beliefs, values, and attitudes about teaching. Each one of us has our own individual feelings about who we want to be as an educator. This includes everything from the way our learning environment is set up, the way we view our profession, and the different styles we plan to implicate in the classroom. This is the beginning of my teaching philosophy.

First of all, I believe that every student is a unique person with specific individual needs. It is therefore my job as a teacher to provide a versatile, safe, caring, and nurturing environment where their learning can best be fostered. Teachers must create an open classroom wherein students are given the opportunity to share their ideas and play a huge part in their own education. Children have a lot to say, and are much more intelligent than most people would give them credit for. So it is important that they not only have the opportunity to share their own ideas, but that they can do so in a safe, non-judgemental classroom, where no question or idea is stupid.

Second as teachers we must encourage our students to explore the world around them. We must provide hands on learning where children are given a chance to connect with the subject matter. When we make learning meaningful, it becomes more powerful. Not only do we need to spark a passion within our students to encourage them to learn, we must also show them our own passions. We must not be afraid to show them that we are people too. I mean I think back to my favourite teachers and there is one thing they all have in common, passion. Not only for the field that they specialize in, but in everything they taught because they were passionate about teaching. I believe teachers must be genuine. Kids are smart, if you are fake, they will see right through you.

Next, I feel like the role of the reacher has changed drastically over time. They have gone from these daunting figures to be feared, to role models who must straddle the line between being a friend and being the authority. The teacher I want to become will hopefully be one that students feel they can turn to, that they don’t dread going to my class, that they know they are safe and welcome in my classroom. I feel like children have a lot to bring to the table. It is my job to make them partners in learning and kind of get rid of that disconnect. My classroom will be open, with a variety of different learning areas. It will have a sense of calmness when it is time to wind down and listen, and be fun and exciting when it is time to get to a fun project or hands on activity.

My experiences in my practicums I think have influenced a lot of how I envision the future classroom that I will be tasked with creating. In my first practicum they sat in pods, in the second they had separate sections for different activities and subjects (bean bag chairs for reading centre, etc) and it was a school that integrated art into every subject, and in my last one the classroom was very well organized but creative and open. I feel that my teaching philosophy will only grow through my experiences and this is just the tip of the iceberg for me. There are a lot of things I believe about teaching. Parents should be our partners. We should work together with our colleagues in order to be better teachers. The school is a community where we all work together and continuously learn. Being a teacher you are always learning. There are so many different beliefs I hold about teaching, students, and education, that I could nearly go on forever.