

## **Educational Philosophy of Jennifer L. Simpson**

My philosophy of education is rooted in the belief that each student is a unique individual and that uniqueness should be respected. Since I first realized that I wanted to pursue a career in teaching, I have spent a lot of time looking back on the teachers and professors I have had that made a huge impression on me and I also looked at my parents. I reflected on what made them such excellent teachers. For me, it was that they were so respectful, understanding, approachable, and supportive. I believe that this is what helps make an excellent teacher. To demonstrate these qualities, I would show the students my respect by how I would interact with them and I would show an understanding by simply listening to their needs. This will show them that I am approachable and that they can feel free to ask questions and ask for help because they will feel comfortable and not intimidated, but still have respect for me.

Whenever I work with students, no matter the age, I always try to be supportive of their ideas by providing a safe environment for them to share those ideas. In order to provide a safe environment, I act as a guide so that they can reach their full potential, and by also teaching them to show respect for each other and all things. As an educator, I believe that every student holds within them the keys needed to achieve personal excellence. The most important task for me is to discover what my students' talents are by asking them questions and listening deeply.

I will always not only focus on what I am teaching, but I will also make time to recognize my students' talents and strengths and help them to recognize them also. I believe that if they can recognize and use them, then they will improve, achieve, and become more effective in class, school and in life. I have always loved learning and I hop, that as an educator, I can instill that in my students.