

Teacher Disposition
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There are many components that make up a successful teacher. Teachers must be able to care for the whole student. There are many things going on in students outside life that could be affecting them in how they perform in school. In order to talk to the students and parents about what might be happening to them, the teacher must have communication skills to effectively care for them. Having good communication skills allows the teacher can effectively convey meaning to both the students and their parents. This can help with success in the classroom as well. Effective teachers are also very creative. They are able to gage their class and seize teachable moments. This allows the teacher to cater to all of the students and their individual needs. Lastly, effective teachers are able to keep a professional demeanor. Being professional in the classroom makes the teachers peers and students respect them as an authority figure. Effective teachers are able to have all of these qualities to ensure the success of their students.

A caring teacher is empathetic, compassionate, respectful, passionate, and is aware of their cultural surroundings. These are all traits that I have worked on through being a lead preschool teacher in the summer. Of course, I can always improve in some of these areas so I would identify myself as developed in regards to caring. I found myself being very culturally aware with my preschool class because I had numerous students from different corners of the world. This forced me to find new ways of explaining rules and enforcing them more often because these students knew little English or had little classroom experience. These students also caused me to be more empathetic and compassionate. Working with this particular class has made me more culturally aware, making my cultural awareness developed.

Occasionally, I would become frustrated with students for not doing what I had told them to do, which I would then try to empathize with them. Most of the time they were not listening to me because either I did not explain myself well enough, or because of their lack of English they were not able to understand at the time. There were also situations in which the students would be so frustrated because they were not able to communicate with their peers or me in an effective way so they would get mad or cry. This enabled me to have compassion for them. I wanted to take their frustration away and I tried to understand them. Sometimes they were able to physically show me by taking my hand and pulling me to what they were talking about. Other times, communication was lost and they were defeated. Because of these I would say that my empathy and compassion are highly developed.

I also found that if I had respect for the children they were also respected me in return. This meant that I had to listen to each individual child about whatever was on their mind. They had many ideas about what I should incorporate into the curriculum, which sometimes I was able to do. Other times I simply sat down next to them and they would tell me about their parents, siblings, or something they did over the weekend. Once I engaged with them in this manner, they listened more to me during our lessons. That being said, I would have to remind them that sometimes it's my turn to talk, not theirs. I would then tell them that they will still get a turn to talk. The respect that I have for my students is developed.

Passion is something I believe that I have for teaching, therefore I would say I am developed. I love working with children and seeing them grow and learn. While working with them, I always want what is best for them and seeing if they can meet high standards and be successful. Sometimes, it can be hard to be passionate. This is because, when students are

behaving how a teacher wants them too, it is easy to be energetic and want to engage the students. However, when students are misbehaving it is easy to focus on the negatives of the class and become lazy. Other factors of life can affect how passionate a teacher is on a day to day basis. If one does not get enough sleep or a negative personal event happens, a teacher needs to be able to separate themselves from that and cater to the needs of the students.

Being an effective teacher also means that one can be communicative. Traits that are involved in communicative are: presence, responsiveness, attentiveness, trustworthiness, collaboration, and voice. Personally, I am a very shy person, and realizing that I have chosen jobs to improve my communication skills. Being a tour guide and calling prospective students for Bethany Lutheran College has helped me to improve how I communicate with others. Presence, responsiveness, and attentiveness are aspects that I have improved on due to these jobs, so I would say that they are developed. While giving tours to prospective students, I need to have an assertive presence so that students will take what I have to say seriously. At the same time, I need to be able to remain attentive and listen to their questions and stories. Through listening to them, I can respond to the questions that they have or make comments on whatever they want to talk about.

Voice is something that is developing for myself. When I am with my peers I am usually comfortable asserting my opinions. Other times, if I am around new people I become shy and not as willing to speak up. It can make me very uncomfortable at times for me to say what I am thinking at times. However, I have improved in having conversations with people in authority, for example my professors. I found that it is important to converse with professors about grades and life situations in general. This is because if certain things occur in one's life, then the

professor is aware and may be either able to offer advice or be understanding when homework cannot be turned in.

I do enjoy working together with my peers, which would make my collaboration developed. Working with peers helps me to confirm my thoughts in my own work. Sometimes I am unsure of how correct my answers are and comparing answers with my peers restores my confidence. When planning for events, the best ideas have come from collaborating with other people to have multiple viewpoints and ideas.

I value what others think about me, whether that be my peers, students, or family. In order to have positive opinions about one's self, a teacher must be trustworthy. Students, parents, and peers will confide in a teacher with academic and personal problems. When a teacher can keep this information to themselves, then students and peers will feel more comfortable and respect the teacher more. If a teacher tells personal information, they lose the respect of their students which can result in poor classroom management. Betrayal is something that is felt when trust is broken between two people. This is detrimental to most relationships. However, there are times in which personal information has to be told to others, for example child abuse. When a child confides in a teacher about abuse, the teacher is then obligated to tell the authorities for the child's protection. Because I value the relationships in my life and how people view me, my trustworthiness is developed.

Another characteristic of an effective teacher is the ability to be creative. Being creative entails that a teacher is: flexible, inventive, resourceful, and resilient. Nannying is something that has helped me with all of these skills. Our schedules changed day to day because of the child's parents, the weather, or simply because the child did not want to do the planned activity.

There were times when we would be sitting on the couch and then would randomly decide to go to the pet store and get frozen yogurt. This made my summer more spontaneous which also made my flexibility highly developed.

Something that I know that I personally need to work on, is my resilience. When I get tired or stressed I occasionally let it get the better of me. In the future I need to realize that I can deal with whatever is stressing me later on my own time. Exceedingly stressful situations usually require me to take a minute to myself to calm back down or talking to a peer. To better myself in this area I am only assuming that I need to work on coping mechanisms. That being said, I do not mind chaos in the classroom. I enjoy a noisy classroom and looking around the room to see children playing or working productively. Resilience is something that I am currently working on so I would classify it as developing.

Inventiveness and resourcefulness are two categories that I have had experience with being a preschool teacher. I had to make my own lessons and usually was planning them the morning of, while the students were arriving. This “off the cuff” planning caused me to be inventive and resourceful because I was finding materials at the last minute. Quick thinking was also required because sometimes the daycare did not have the materials I would need for an art project. Therefore, I had to be inventive and come up with a different way to complete the project, or do a different art project. While teaching students also like to offer their own ideas and opinions that occasionally I can utilize in the lesson. However, I would only rate my inventiveness and resourcefulness as developing. This is because of the reason that I was planning my lessons last minute, which is not ideal. I would like to learn to be more resourceful and inventive while having more planning prior to my lessons.

Being critical is another trait that an effective teacher must have. Critical teachers must be able to reflect, have an open mind, and efficacy. Reflecting is something that I would consider to be developed. In school I reflect on the homework I have all the time. This is important especially within my education classes because the classes I take now will impact my career. I consider the effort that I put into my lesson plans and decide whether or not they could have been better. This is something that still needs work because even though I reflect on things, the changes that are needed are not always made. Part of this is due to laziness and another part is because of a lack of time in the day.

Open mindedness is something that I feel is something that I have been very good at, so I would call this highly developed. My coworkers at the preschool I work at have told me that I am good at being open minded. When there is an issue that arises I like to hear both sides of an argument to form an opinion. Personally, I have also been working on admitting to when I acted in an inappropriate manner. I have found that my friends value me more when I can apologize for things I did before they even talk to me about what offended me.

One other quality that a teacher must have is efficacy. This is a trait that I am still developing. While teaching I set high expectations for my students, which is a good thing. When they do not reach those expectations, they way very heavy on me. I need to realize that when they do not do as well as I had hoped, I should realize my mistake, learn from it and make the appropriate adjustments. In school, I do not think that I set high enough expectations for myself, yet other times my expectations are too high. While doing my lesson plans I usually start with high ambitions. Then as the time passes while doing my homework I settle for doing average

work. Sometimes I doubt my own abilities and that causes me to lower my expectations for myself as well.

The last characteristic an effective teacher must have is the ability to be professional. Being professional means that the teacher can be presented as professional, has a work ethic, is able to keep information confidential. My professional demeanor I would say is highly developed. When going out in a business situation I know how to present myself. One must dress themselves for the occasion and treat their peers, students, and parents with utmost respect. Also in order to be taken seriously a teacher must arrive on time to begin their day and come prepared to execute lessons for the benefit of the children.

Another aspect of professionalism is being able to have a good work ethic and a sense of responsibility. I do not have much experience in this because I haven't had to follow a school policy in a teaching perspective or complete teaching related tasks. When I have my own classroom I would only assume that I would do all of these things. Because of this I would say that work ethic is developing. That being said, I do have a good sense of responsibility. I realize what things are important in my life and what needs to take priority. This is a skill that will be very useful for teaching.

The last aspect of professionalism is that a teacher needs to be able to keep information confidential. Confidentiality is something that I value because letting someone's personal information out to the public can have several ramifications. When a student's information gets out, the student can feel degraded and then it creates a negative learning environment. In personal situations I know that I would not want my friends to tell information about me that was not meant for anyone else. This understanding of confidentiality will help me in my future

classroom to avoid any conflicts that may arise because of telling information. I would say that my confidentiality is developed.

There are many qualities that I am still developing, yet I am confident that I will be able to better myself in those areas. For example, I am improving my communication skills through the jobs I currently have. Being a tour guide and calling potential high school students for Bethany Lutheran College has allowed me to gain more experience in communication. I am forced to talk to people I do not know and persuade them to come to Bethany in an appealing way. The other qualities that need improvement on will be handled in the same way. This being that I will force myself into situations that allow me utilize my weaker qualities. Through this I will be able to practice using them so that they will become my stronger qualities. It is important that I work on these so that I can become an effective teacher, because effective teachers have successful students.