

Educational Psychology

Considering EVERYTHING we have studied about issues related to diversity, what have you learned in Ed Psych and how will you use it in your classroom?

The past few weeks of talking about diversity in the classroom have been eye opening. I have begun to realize how important it is to be respectful and understanding to all cultures and ethnicities. It is very important to teach the young students about different cultures and help them understand the different ways people express themselves through behaviors, traditions, languages, and perceptions.

I have learned that socioeconomic status can have a significant effect on a student's success in the classroom both socially and academically. The book defines socioeconomic status, in terms of an individual's income, occupation, education, and prestige in society. The socioeconomic status of a student is measured as a combination of the individual's income and years of education. In some cases in the classroom the students with a higher socioeconomic have an upper hand on learning. For example the students whose parents have more money will probably take their families on more summer vacations. Summer vacations can expose children to different cultures around the country and world. A survey shows that most students come from the lower middle class and the working class. There are few from both the upper class and poor.

According to the book average differences between middle-class and lower-class parents in child-rearing practices are the main reason for differences in school achievement. Children that are raised in a middle-class family are more likely to be more prepared for school etiquette. By the time they enter school, middle class children are likely to be good at following directions, explaining and understanding reasons, and

comprehending and using complex language, whereas working-class or lower –class children may have less experience in all these areas.

I have come to realize through out my own schooling experience that the lower class students generally just don't do as well in school. Sometimes their home life isn't good. Their parents might be going through a divorce or maybe they are being physically abused and that affects their homework and studies. The lower class can most definitely have it harder in some cases.

As teachers we have to realize what is happening with these students and do something about it. We can't change what is going on with their parents or what happens at home but we can encourage the students to try their hardest to get their homework done at home and try to treat them just like all the other students as much as possible. As teachers we cannot always give those students excuses. They should be treated equally to the others.

When it comes to teaching in a diverse classroom I have learned a few different things that will aid me if I was in this situation. First of all as I stated earlier is to be consistent and fair to all students no matter what the circumstance. I should try to incorporate all different kinds of cultures in my classroom. If my classroom is full of Latino Americans, white Americans, and African Americans then I would be sure to use texts that acknowledge and address all these different cultures. It is important that each student feels that they are important and are equal to everybody else no matter what they look like or where they come from. Also avoiding stereotyping is important. People are constantly making stereotypes. Stereotypes are not necessarily a bad thing unless you act upon them and judge people based on their physical characteristics and socioeconomic

status. Finally it is important to decorate your classroom with all different kinds of cultural material. It is important to show that you acknowledge all cultures and they are all important in different ways.

In conclusion I think the most important lessons I've learned through the diversity chapter is that everyone is going to be coming from a different background in life, it is important that as a teacher you recognize their background and get to know them. You should try and understand their situation and make their learning experience interesting and applicable to them. Also making all the students individual culture feel equal and important is key to a successfully diverse classroom.