

*My Philosophy of Education*  
*Sarah Carlson*

I believe in *diversity*...

I believe that appreciating students and their diverse ways is the key to not only a loving classroom environment but also a productive one. There are so many different ways in which students are diverse including (but not limited to) culturally, economically, academically, and socially. I believe that as teachers it is our responsibility to know how our students are different, know what our student's needs are, and know how we can differentiate for each student in order for them to reach their full potential. I believe in celebrating diversity and I encourage the idea of enhancing the different skills and attributes that students already possess.

I believe in *creativity*...

I believe that children have so much creativity just waiting to be unleashed. It is my job as a teacher to create tasks, activities, and lessons that build and expand their creativity. Creativity can be expressed in so many different ways such as music and dance, art, literacy, and exploration. I encourage my students to build on prior knowledge, try new things, and think about concepts and ideas in an imaginative way.

I believe in a *growth mindset*...

I believe that I can constantly grow as a teacher by not having a fixed mindset and by envisioning that all my students can learn. To integrate a growth mindset into the classroom I will foster student differences, encourage my students to take risks, and learn from their mistakes. As an educator it is vital to believe that all students can succeed. Part of this is encouraging students to challenge themselves in an educational setting and supporting them through positive struggles, obstacles, and especially triumphs!