

Quotations for Positive Pedagogy

I've come to the frightening conclusion that I am a decisive element in the classroom. It is my personal approach that creates the climate. It's my daily mood that makes the weather. As a teacher, I possess tremendous power to make a student's life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or humor, hurt or heal. In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or de-escalated, and a student humanized or dehumanized. I do make a difference!

Chaim Ginnot

One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings.

Carl Jung

The secret of education is respecting the pupil.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.

William Arthur Ward

Teaching is the greatest act of optimism.

Colleen Wilcox

To awaken interest and kindle enthusiasm is the sure way to teach easily and successfully.

Tryon Edwards

Good teaching cannot be reduced to technique; good teaching comes from the identity and integrity of the teacher.

Parker J. Palmer

Instruction does much, but encouragement does everything.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Any genuine teaching will result, if successful, in knowing how to bring about a better condition of things than existed earlier.

John Dewey

Students learn what they care about from people they care about and who, they know, care about them.

Barbara Harrell Carson

The task of the excellent teacher is to stimulate "ordinary" people to unusual effort. The tough problem is not in identifying winners: it is in making winners out of ordinary people.

K. Patricia Cross

No man can be a good teacher unless he has feelings of warm affection toward his pupils and a genuine desire to impart to them what he himself believes to be of value.

Bertrand Russell

Mentors and apprentices are partners in an ancient human dance, and one of teaching's great rewards is the daily chance it gives us to get back on the dance floor. It is the dance of the spiraling generations, in which the old empower the young with their experience and the young empower the old with new life, reweaving the fabric of the human community as they touch and turn.

Parker J. Palmer

The main hope of a nation lies in the proper education of its youth.

Erasmus

The highest result of education is tolerance.

Helen Keller

Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.

John Dewey

How can we help students to understand that the tragedy of life is not death? The tragedy is to die with commitments undefined and convictions undeclared and service unfulfilled.

Vachel Lindsay

Our best chance for happiness is education.

Mark VanDorn

We teach what we like to learn and the reason many people go into teaching is vicariously to experience again the primary joy experienced the first time they learned something they loved.

Stephen Brookfield

Effective teaching may be the hardest job there is.

William Glasser

Where there is no learning, there is no teaching.

Thomas Angelo

Tell me and I forget. Show me and I remember. Involve me and I understand.

Chinese proverb

Teaching is truth mediated by personality.

Phyllis Brooks

I like to learn, but I don't like to be taught.

Winston Churchill

I do not teach children. I give them joy.

Isadora Duncan

Teaching is the achievement of shared meaning.

D.B. Gowin

A mind is a fire to be kindled, not a vessel to be filled.

Plutarch

Thought flows in terms of stories: stories about events, stories about people, and stories about intentions and achievements. We learn in the form of stories. The best teachers are the best story tellers.

Frank Smith

Setting an example is not the main means of influencing another, it is the only means.

Albert Einstein

Only some 12% of a national sample of almost 400,000 teachers received less than average ratings from students.

John Centra

The most important knowledge teachers need to do good work is a knowledge of how students are experiencing learning and perceiving their teacher's actions.

Steven Brookfield

Learning is a social process that occurs through interpersonal interaction within a cooperative context. Individuals, working together, construct shared understandings and knowledge.

David Johnson

There is no difference between living and learning. It is impossible and misleading and harmful to think of them as being separate. Teaching is human communication and like all communication, elusive and difficult. We must be wary of the feeling that we know what we are doing in class. When we are most sure of what we are doing, we may be closest to being a bore.

John Holt

A good education is one that connects the will to know with the will to become. Learning is a place where paradise can be created.

Bell Hooks

Since there is no single set of abilities running throughout human nature, there is no single curriculum which all should undergo. Rather, the schools should teach everything that anyone is interested in learning.

John Dewey

All education springs from some image of the future. If the image of the future held by a society is grossly inaccurate, its education system will betray its youth.

Alvin Toffler

Education is the ability to think clearly, act well in the world of work and to appreciate life.

Brigham Young

My contention is that creativity is as important as literacy in education, and we should treat it with the same status.

Sir Ken Robinson
