Haiying Liao

Philosophy of Teaching

My teaching philosophy is built upon the foundations of my own educational and teaching experience and what I learned during my BA degree in Second Languages Studies at University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Growing up in China and Hawaii, I had a chance to learn Chinese as a first language and then English as a foreign language. I am aware of the difference between how learners are taught, especially language, in the two different cultures. In China the classroom is often more teacher centered. The teacher provides the learners with the input and then drills or lets the students practice. What is focused during class is the form or grammar structure of the language. Through this kind of education, learners may perform well in classrooms. They may exceed in translating and analyzing the structure of the language. However, when it comes to everyday conversation, they tend to have great difficulties. What is learned in class cannot be used in daily life. Acquiring a first language is totally different. Learners usually learn language through conversations or interactions with one another.

My teaching philosophy includes providing students with a motivate and supportive leaning environment, helping students to achieve communicative competence, and meeting their individual need to succeed in the English environment.

Motivative and supportive leaning environment

One of the first main components of being an effective teacher is to give students a motivated learning environment. I think motivation is a very important key in either teaching or learning. In order to motivate students toward language learning, a teacher's showing interest about what you are teaching is an important factor in student's motivation. If you are bored and apathetic, I believe students will too. For example, making the material relevant to their lives, and not just based on form. Also, it is important to believe that every student can succeed and show them that I am believing in them and giving them support that they should trust themselves and can do well. If you believe it, students will realize it and will work harder, and also is an important job for teacher to create an environment in which they feel safe and welcome to express their own opinions and their own ideas.

Achieve communicative competence

Another component of being a successful ESL teacher is to help students to achieve communicative competence by giving them confident. Because being students in an ESL class, their ultimate goals are learn how to successfully use and communicate in the target language that they are learning. Although it is important for student to learn grammar and target language, but if students are not able to communicate and interact with other by what they have learned that will be a big problem too. Therefore, as a teacher, we need to teach student how to be confident while we are communicating with other in their target language. I think the only way to help ESL students to be confident in their communication in class is by doing

more specking activity or an activity that needs student to communicate with others a lot, such as share their own culture with the classes by doing a poster project in a group.

Meet student's individual need

As a teacher, I need to make sure all the students participating in class. I believe that each child is a special individual, every student think differently, act differently, and learn differently. Therefore, to meet student's individual need, I will use various teaching material and methods to teach the class, such as, Incorporate role playing, brainstorming, discussion, case studies, audiovisual presentations, guest speakers or small group work.