

Inspirational Quotes regarding Teaching and Education

[Compiled by the Pardes Educators Summer Curriculum Workshop Staff, Summer 2009]

The teacher is often the first to discover the talented and unusual scholar. How he handles and encourages, or discourages such a child, may make all the difference in the world to that child's future – and to the world.

[Loren Eiseley]

Teaching is more difficult than learning because what teaching calls for is this: to let learn. *[Martin Heidegger]*

All education is the education of the whole person. Jewish education is no exception. No matter what the curriculum reads, the true education is in the meeting of the teacher and pupil that aims toward the meeting between the human being and the Divine. *[Buber]*

Tell me and I'll listen. Show me and I'll understand. Involve me and I'll learn. *[Teton Lakota Indians]*

*When referring to the education of children, chinuch means stimulating the growth and development of what each child is suited for by his very nature. This quality or potential may be found in him only in very small measure, in total hiddenness, the task of the educator is to uncover it... The education of each and every child must therefore be different, depending on his nature, mind, character, and his other unique qualities.

Rabbi Kalonymus Kalman Shapiro, Rebbe of the Warsaw Ghetto

The difference between the person who instructs and the person who is a real teacher lies in the ability to recognize the importance of a child's feelings about himself. We are really teaching, if each child can leave our group holding his head high with self respect and feeling that he is a person of worth. *[Gladys Gardner Jenkins]*

As I began to trust students...I changed from being a teacher and evaluator, to being a facilitator of learning. [Carl Rogers]

I have come to a frightening conclusion. I am the decisive element in my classroom. It is my personal approach that creates the climate. It is my daily mood that makes the weather. As a teacher I possess tremendous power to make a child'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 child humanized, or de-humanized. *[Chaim Ginnot]*

As soon as I finished teaching the first class I ever taught, I asked my supervisor what he thought. He told me he thought I had taught as if speaking from the next room through a tube. He was a good coach. With a single sentence, he oriented me toward the real thing. Whatever you do as you struggle to teach, he seemed to suggest, do it in person with kids you dare to be among, and keep all relations live.

[Joseph P. McDonald, Teaching: Making Sense of an Uncertain Craft]

I propose situations for people to think about and I watch what they do. They tell me what *they* make of it rather than my telling them *what* to make of it. *[E. Duckworth]*

Education for most people, means trying to lead the child to resemble the typical adult of his society (whereas) for me, education means making creators... *[Piaget]*

The aim of education is the knowledge not of fact, but of values. *[Dean William R. Inge]*

The aim of education should be to teach us rather how to think than what to think – rather to improve our minds so as to enable us to think for ourselves, than to load the memory with thoughts of other men. *[Bill Beattie]*

Children require guidance and sympathy far more than instruction. *[Annie Sullivan]*

Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man.

-Rabindranath Tagore, Indian writer

The essence of our effort to see that every child has a chance must be to assure each an equal opportunity, not to become equal, but to become different—to realize whatever unique potential of body, mind and spirit he or she possesses.

-John Fischer, American educator

We should honor our teachers more than our parents, because while our parents cause us to live, our teachers cause us to live well.

-Philoxenus, Greek poet

In a completely rational society, the best of us would aspire to be teachers and the rest of us would have to settle for something less, because passing civilization along from one generation to the next ought to be the highest honor and highest responsibility anyone could have.

-Lee Iacocca, American corporate executive

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.

-William Butler Yeats, Irish poet

We make a living by what we get;

we make a life by what we give.

-Winston Churchill, British statesman

To me the sole hope of human salvation
lies in teaching.

-George Bernard Shaw, Irish dramatist

If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.

-Rachel Carson, American environmentalist

If [the teacher] is indeed wise he does not bid you enter the house of his wisdom, but rather leads you to the threshold of your own mind.

-Kahlil Gibran, Lebanese-born poet

I am not a teacher...I am an awakener.

-Robert Frost, American poet

I touch the future. I teach.

-Christa McAuliffe, American teacher

Housework is a breeze. Cooking is a pleasant diversion. Putting up a retaining wall is a lark. But teaching is like climbing a mountain.

-Fawn M. Brodie, American writer