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My Dream as a Teacher of English Learners

There are many great stories about famous teachers. When I was a high school student, I admired my math teacher in my class, so I wanted to be a teacher like my teacher. After graduating university, I found that I have a huge interest in education. So I applied to an academy which is really famous about teaching how to speak English. And I had worked for almost 2 years as a teacher at the academy where the teachers teach how to speak English comfortably by listening, repeating, activities, and exams.

I had lots of passion for educating children, so I tried to make my class fun, enjoyable, comfortable to speak English for students. As Soon as I became a teacher, I became the main teacher of the academy who held open classes inviting children’s’ parents.

Unfortunately, as time goes by, I was losing my passion because of some children. Their parents forced them to study English, so they didn’t have any interest in English and they didn’t try to do anything in class. That made me so crazy. At first, I prepared for some fun activities to enjoy, some stories about out common interest to make them speak. But some children did nothing and keeping speaking in Korean although I gave them a penalty in class. And their parents also made me mad. Some parents kept requiring an exactly different way of teaching from my style and some kept requiring impossible classes such as taking much more care of their children even if I already did my best in my class of 15 people and kept persuading them. They kept doing like what I mentioned. That made me so exhausted rather than excited.

Therefore, with some unsolved problem like troublesome parents and children, I got really frustrated about my English teaching. That’s why my major was English literature not education of English. I didn’t have strong belief in the way I was teaching but some guess.

These days, as I am taking TESOL class, I can have passion for educating again. Whenever I take class, I realize what the true class is for children. And I have had thirst of studying real education. Obviously, TESOL is a helpful way of remembering real education and of course, it makes me study deeply about education.

I want to be a teacher who understands children deeply and pays attention to them by knowing their true ability of English and their mind. When I was still teaching children, one day, I found one of my students’ notes. As I opened it, I realized the importance of a teacher. There was wrong spelling of the word that I taught before, and I didn’t know I made a mistake. Soon, when I took her class, I made them look at the last paragraph that contained my mistaken word. And I corrected it and said my mistake. I think teacher reflects children’s’ future. If I made a mistake in front of them and didn’t correct it, they may have wrong knowledge for a while. They may write the wrong spell and understand differently from true meaning of a word and so on.

Once, I had some students who were called ‘trouble makers’. They used to chat with friends sitting by them and didn’t follow teachers. Most of them felt lonely because their parents were too busy. They wanted to get teachers’ attention. Many other coworkers said to me “They are called trouble makers. If you didn’t ignore them, you might feel tired to lead the class”. They might be right. But I wanted them to listen to me at least. They were tired of being scolded by teachers. Instead of scolding them, I praised their work that is done correctly by them, for example, when they got the right answer accidently. At first, they didn’t care about me. But as I kept paying attention to them, they started to believe in me. They didn’t chat while I’m saying; even they scolded the other student who was noisy. After that, they tried to speak in English even though they had poor ability of speaking English. And I didn’t point out their mistake, but I asked the question including the same, correct phrase that they missed again more slowly than I said before. They didn’t feel shameful and tried to speak slowly but correctly. Finally, they got interested in English, started to study on their own, sometimes, they asked me about English and they graduated with higher score than the scores at the begging of the school. One of them became no.1 in his class. They contact me until now. When they talk about their middle school period, they feel fun. They appreciate for my attention at that time.

Even if it was hard time for me to treat them, I feel great after they got much interest in English. They are also proud of their English skills.

As I mentioned, I hope that I can understand my students deeply. These days, like most adults, most children are also frustrated and exhausted because of their grade, their parents’ expectation. I think they need love and attention. To make them focus on my class and listen to me at least is quite fruitful to me. Although it’s a hard decision to listen to them first and help them first, I’m pretty sure it is the best way to lead the class also in that kind of class. Even I changed the atmosphere in the class, so every student could enjoy the class and got better results.

As I’m taking TESOL, I hope that I’ll get deep understanding of education and skills that I’m forgetting. I hope I can understand children in many aspects such as their weakness, the way they feel enjoyable, their interaction about many other teaching. And I’m not so worried about making mistakes. If I made mistakes, I’ll try not to make many mistakes and learn from my previous mistakes. I feel really sorry for pointing out students’ mistakes unconsciously and making them doing activities before I showed them how to do it sometimes. By achieving TESOL, I hope that I can become a true teacher and have many adorable students to me. And I want to become so famous that almost everyone in Korea can know me. I’ll do all my best and make a great effort to do it!