Joy of Living: Advance Personalized Learning

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GLOBAL
Attending this conference has affected the way I view education. I believe that the way children learn is affected by their environment, and this is where personalized learning becomes crucial. By examining various aspects of different communities (e.g. social, environmental and financial wellness), we can identify and personalize teaching approaches to help children better retain knowledge. Personalized learning should not only include tailoring to individual student needs, but communal needs as well.

INTERDISCIPLINARY

Over the past two years, I conducted a study on how Head Start teachers’ self-perceptions of teaching music may affect the musical culture found in their classrooms. Based on my findings, I discovered a need for classroom teachers to lower their self-consciousness when it comes to making music with children. This can be achieved through increased guidance and support from colleagues and, ideally, music educators.

If we want to promote personalized learning, it is quintessential to work with the figures who facilitate this process on a regular basis. Relating my study to this grand challenge, we need to examine teacher preparation programs, create additional interdisciplinary collaboration among all educators, and offer more professional development workshops. With such opportunities, teachers may increase their awareness when it comes to adapting teaching strategies to better suit individual needs.

RESEARCH


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SERVICE

Over the past year, I have been invited to hold multiple in workshops at various organizations. Having worked with the University’s LEAP (Learning and Exploring at Play) program and Rochester ABC Head Start, I always aim to present strategies to identify musical behaviors, ways to actively make music, and to establish a musical environment that engages each individual child.

To present a workshop that is effective and educational, I had to utilize the same set of presentation materials and tailor them to complement the mission of each program. Being a presenter allowed me to experience firsthand what it means to personalize adult learning opportunities.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

As part of the Institute for Music Leadership Grant and Mentorship program, I am currently in the process of writing my first picture book titled My Musical Trip around China: Lunar New Year! Combining my love for early childhood education, traveling and music, this book is part of a series that I plan to write and release in the next four to five years titled My Musical Trip around the World. My hope for this series is that it will not only help music teachers easily incorporate multicultural music education into the classroom, but also make the books adaptable enough for classroom teachers interested in project-based learning to use.


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