

Anna Beth Richardson

My Teaching Philosophy: Learning by Doing and Connecting to Life

When I think about why I want to teach, I keep coming back to two things: the power of hands-on learning and the importance of making real-world connections. These ideas have shaped the way I see myself as a future educator and how I hope to impact the students I teach. I don't just want to cover content—I want to create meaningful experiences that stick with students long after they leave the classroom.

I've always believed that people learn best by doing. Worksheets and textbooks have their place, but nothing compares to the kind of learning that happens when students can touch, build, explore, experiment, and create. Whether it's planting a seed to learn about ecosystems or building a model of a watershed, I want my students to engage with the material in active and memorable ways. Hands-on learning gives students the opportunity to take ownership of what they're doing, and more importantly, it gives them a reason to care.

Real-world connections are just as important. I want my students to see that what we're learning in class matters. Whether we're talking about recycling, natural resources, or how pollution affects our water, I want them to understand how these topics show up in their everyday lives. When students realize that the content applies to them personally, it builds curiosity and encourages them to think critically. I don't expect every child to relate to every topic, but I do believe that it's my job to help bridge that gap—to show them how learning can help them make sense of the world around them.

My goal is to be a teacher who is flexible and open-minded. I know not everything will go perfectly, and I want to model for my students that mistakes are okay—that learning is messy sometimes, and that's part of the process. I want to be the kind of teacher who listens to her students, learns from them, and adjusts when something isn't working. My favorite quote from Ms. Frizzle says it best: "Take chances, make mistakes, get messy!" That's exactly the kind of energy I want in my classroom.

At the end of the day, I want to create a classroom where students feel seen, supported, and inspired. I want to teach because I believe in the value of learning that is meaningful, active, and connected to the real world. If my students leave my classroom knowing a little more, caring a little more, and feeling a little more confident in themselves as learners, then I'll know I've done something right.