

As a teacher, my goal is to provide students with a safe and encouraging learning environment where they can grow as learners and as individuals. Above all else, I believe in prioritizing the students' safety, well-being, and overall health. Therefore, I aim to create a learning environment in my classroom that ensures the safety and well-being of my students.

I believe that all students have a unique set of strengths. I think teachers should set high expectations for each student and never place limits on a student's abilities. Teachers, too, are students. Teaching is an ongoing process of learning from your students, peers, administration, and community, so teachers should be constantly adapting and improving themselves as educators.

This year, I took a short quiz in my Motivating and Managing Students class to discover my classroom management profile. These 12 questions revealed that I lean towards the authoritative and democratic styles of teaching. After researching these styles, I quickly noticed that these styles reflect my personal preferences as a student in the classroom and as an individual in life. I enjoy my independence but also enjoy structure, especially when the person of authority explains their reasoning behind their rules. I also enjoy being in a positive, supportive environment both while learning and in general. I believe that I scored highest for the authoritative style since I value structure, goal setting, and classroom respect while also valuing mutual understanding for one another, compassion, and honesty. I want my students to be successful and achieve their goals while feeling comfortable and accepted in my classroom.

As an educator in a Deaf classroom, the most important aspect of my classroom is visibility. My students need to always have clear visibility of me and their classmates. I believe that every Deaf classroom needs semi-circular tables so that the students can easily see one another as they sign. This arrangement also allows the students to easily see the board and

posters hung along the wall. Arranging my classroom in this way will allow me to meet the unique needs of my students.

Communication is a pressing skill for children with hearing loss. To develop language, they must be exposed to language both within the classroom and within the home. Therefore, as a teacher, I stress the importance of parental and familial involvement in my classroom. Inviting parents into the Deaf classroom will provide them with information regarding sign language, Deaf culture, and how to meet their child's unique needs. I believe that parental involvement within the classroom is beneficial to me as the teacher, my students, and the parents themselves.

Students in all classrooms present a wide range of strengths and needs. However, students in Deaf classrooms typically present an even greater range since most Deaf classrooms include several grade levels. I believe the first step for classroom success is understanding the students. I aim to develop a solid understanding of each student within the first week including their likes, dislikes, strengths, and needs. I believe that this foundational knowledge is imperative to students' success and my ability to be an effective educator.

As an educator in an elementary Deaf classroom, my primary goal is for my students to further develop their language skills and build relationships with one another using their communication skills. I believe that providing deaf and hard of hearing students with the skills to successfully communicate with others is the most important lesson a teacher can teach. As a teacher in a Deaf classroom, the ultimate goal is to support students in their journey to becoming mainstreamed in the normal hearing classrooms. By attending to each student's unique needs, I will be able to provide the best instruction for each student to succeed.

As an individual who suffers from severe anxiety and panic attacks, I have always wished that my teachers had taken the time to understand me and help meet my needs. Therefore, I have

made it my goal as a teacher to be attentive to my students' needs and work to ensure their overall well-being. As a clinician in the Miller Speech and Hearing Clinic and a student intern in Deer Creek Elementary School's Deaf program, I have met my goal of being attentive to each student's needs. For example, at the beginning of each semester of clinic, I dedicated weeks to assessing, analyzing, and setting age-appropriate as well as skill-appropriate goals for my client. In the classroom, I dedicated my first two weeks to observing the classroom environment and learning each student's unique strengths and needs. Now, when I assist the head teacher, I can refer to my foundational knowledge of each student when making in the moment teaching decisions. I plan to use my extensive experiences with children throughout the years to aid my teaching and decision making to ensure that each student's needs are attended to and met.