

# The education of a child education essay

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A teacher affects an eternity: they can never tell where their influence stops (Henry Adams). The education of a child is the root of their future; a good education increases the chances of future success. Teachers are there to inspire a future generation to be the best they can be. I believe a child's chance of success is strongly rooted in the classroom, with the growth and development of any child reflecting the ambition, drive and nurture of their teacher. I am an ambitious young woman aiming to become an excellent Secondary School Geography teacher, inspiring the minds of 11-18 year olds. My passion for teaching (in particular Geography) arises from my own school years. My Geography teacher was an inspiration who made learning fun as well as challenging. The field courses we attended were particularly enjoyable and I feel that the experience of learning outside the classroom creates a more interactive learning atmosphere. The positive support received from members of the Geography department gave me the ambition to want to learn more about the subject, resulting in my decision to study the subject at degree level at Swansea University. Throughout my recent volunteering experience at Fitzharrys School I found individual teachers who were influential and inspiring as well as educational, and witnessed how this can create a positive impact on the students. For example, the behavioural support unit, who offer one-to-one support for children who may require an extra helping hand (academically or socially), does an excellent job in supporting children to reach their full potential. Taking an interest in a child's personal development alongside their educational development establishes a secure foundation to a well-rounded future. The chief inspector of Ofsted reported in November 2012 that " Access to a good education for children and young people is far too dependent on where you happen to live".

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Personally, I find this conclusion unacceptable and consider that every child should have the same rights to an education regardless of where they live or their socio-economic backgrounds. Yet, I also feel that the success of a school is ultimately the responsibility of its staff and teachers; a good quality teacher educates a child who produces good quality exam results. Grasping this challenge, I want to improve the current education system and aspire to be the best teacher I know I can be. Creativity and imagination are key tools in creating a memorable and educational lesson and are especially important at GCSE and A-level, as these key stages in a child's education strengthens the pillars to a prosperous future. Sometimes of course, the lessons are not learned, but the enjoyment will develop their insight to the world around them. Finally, Geography gives an insight into different aspects of the world - something that is increasingly apparent across the contemporary media - and allows exploration of both the human and physical impacts of everyday life. This is a journey I am very keen to take with my future students.

## **Relevant Work Experience**

I took the initiative during my summer vacation at university to acquire real-world experience within a classroom. For the period of three weeks (18-June-12 to 07-July-12), I volunteered as a classroom observer and teaching assistant at Fitzharrys School, Abingdon. During my time at the school, I took an interactive role within the Geography department, in the classroom and in the field. For example, I looked at the schemes of work for several years and devised and taught some appropriate starter activities for both Year 8 and Year 13. Additionally, I devised an activity based upon the lesson to support the less-able students, including working with an EAL (English as an

additional language) student during their assessment period. As well as working directly with the students, I read around the subject before each lesson to ensure I was prepared to help students during lessons. Working closely with the class teacher we were able to devise a new assessment for learning strategy within the Geography department. Additionally, whilst at the school I got an insight into the pastoral, PSHE and extra-curricular aspects of teaching. For example, I took three days outside the Geography department working with other staff to help on the Year 6 induction day, Year 9 sexual health carousel day, and the Year 9 "inspire" sports day. I also took two additional days in September 2012 to help out on two geography field trips, acting in a supervisory capacity as well as taking an academic role in a Year 10 GCSE trip to Henley, Oxford, and a Year 9 trip to Lulworth Cove, Dorset. I thoroughly enjoyed my time working with the students at Fitzharrys School and I have learned that professionalism and confidence within the classroom and field is key to creating a safe, fun and inspiring environment for learning. I would like to take my Geography knowledge and develop it into a teaching career at secondary school level. My current experience of working with students across the secondary age group has led me to believe that this is the career path that I wish to take. I wish to change the way children think of the environment before it is too late.