

## O'Connell's Teaching Philosophy

As a teacher, it is my job to allow students to grow in a healthy and safe environment. Through skills-focused instruction, empowerment of the do something principle, strong relationships, and constancy. I, as a teacher, can support the students to achieve their goals and create meaningful experiences.

**Relationships:** Building healthy respectful relationships with your students create a basic ground of understanding to create common ground.

**Reason 1:** Communication is already open and works both ways when an issue occurs, and shared understanding is established.

**Reason 2:** Every student needs to feel included and valued.

**Skill Focused:** Content can change and adapt but the skills can be implemented anywhere.

**Reason 1:** Ability to change content for relevance such as current events and interests while providing student choice assessment.

**Reason 2:** More student engagement, practical application, buy-in increase, power in choice, and ability to apply checklist mentality.

**Do Something Principle:** The principle states that you need to start something to create motivation. This translates to the classroom having the students try the best they can before asking about something they don't understand.

**Reason 1:** Gives the students a safe place to fail and practice a growth mindset.

**Reason 2:** Creates a path for more effective instruction by understanding what they do not understand vs the generic "I don't understand" with nothing completed.

**Define Behaviors and Create Constancy:** Have clear expectations that show positive behavior but also constant consequences to allow students to make their own decisions.

**Reason 1:** Students can make decisions and understand the repercussions.

**Reason 2:** Students get to weigh the options (Choice=Consequence positive or negative).

**Reason 3:** Eliminates challenges and what if's.

### Key Questions to ask:

Am I respecting (or improving) the relationship we have?

Are we improving on a skill?

Am I giving an opportunity for the \_\_\_\_\_ to improve in \_\_\_\_\_?

Am I allowing \_\_\_\_\_ to make a decision?

Are my expectations reasonable and clear?

Is everyone included and valued?