

*“Foundations of Education”*

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Books are the foundation of education, because reading is the ultimate prerequisite for learning! This is my motto concerning education. I feel that once a child has learned to read they can succeed in any other subject matter. As a child books were the best “toy” to me. I collected books from my favorite collections such as Dr.Suess and Mrs. Piggle Wiggle. Before I could read I would pretend to read to my mom and little brother. I was read to during play time and before bed every night. I fell in love with the construction of books, the way I felt being read to, and the sense of accomplishment when finishing a good book. I began this particular collection as a college student when I decided that I wanted to become a teacher. I knew that I wanted to recreate and run the type of classrooms I had been a part of in grade school. Those classrooms had reading areas with bright books and posters of book themes. I feel that reading and being read to accomplishes much more than most have taken the time to really think about. For example books give us a command of the English language, offers us historical accounts, helps us better understand math and sciences in some cases, and helps us to sympathize with others. As a student here at MSU, I took a children’s literature course that helped me learn techniques for picking out the best children’s books. This class helped confirm what I already believed about books; they are the foundation for education! I learned that originally there was no children’s literature. The purpose of the earliest children’s books was to teach them morals about life. I also learned about genres, illustrative media, and language use. This class intrigued me so much that I went out and bought more books. The purpose of my collection is to be fully prepared to engage children in reading once I become a full time teacher. My collection contains what I feel are the best books for pre-school children all the way up to the high school level. There are some books that are considered classics and some I believe to be unique to my own taste. I have purchased most of the books myself, others were given to me by family members on past Christmases or birthdays, and a couple I managed to save from my childhood collection!