My personal philosophy is that children learn best through play and stability in their lives. I think we underestimate the effect of consistent caregivers, discipline and interaction with children. Also I belief in a hands off approach where teachers are there to help facilitate a child's learning. Children learn best through interacting with peers and the environments they are exposed to. Children soak up all of what's around them, so through consistent, caring relationship, interaction with peers and trusted adults can help them to feel safe to explore their worlds and develop at their own pace. Also I think adventure is an important aspect of a childs life, allowing them to experience the trees and the nature around so they can better learn. I believe I can influence children by making them feel safe and nurtured, so they are more comfortable exploring the world around them knowing that they have loving supportive help when they need it.

 What struck me most about Taylor Mali’s piece was the passion he has for teaching children. He sees his class as more than just a group of kids, rather he sees them as valuable human beings who need to learn how to be functioning members of society. And that they deserve to be taught well and by someone who cares about them. I want to work with children because I want children to know that they are worth someone being there for them and caring about them. I also want to work with children because I see how much childhood affects adults, and how a child being mistreated can have an effect for the rest of their lives.

 Some skills I possess are, that I try to see each child's behavior as a separate entity from the child itself. A child's behavior can be the direct result from a mistreatment in their development. I also believe I can bring a willingness to care for a child for who they are and what makes them unique. Some skills that I think I need to work are that I need to learn how to facilitate a child's learning. I never really seem to know what kind of questions to ask or how to best help the child learn.