

EDUCATIONAL PRINCIPLES

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Abraham Maslow believed that the only reason that people would not move well in direction of self-actualization is because of hindrances placed in their way by society. He stated that education is one of these hindrances. He recommended ways education can switch from its usual person-stunting tactics to person-growing approaches. Maslow stated that educators should respond to the potential an individual has for growing into a self-actualizing person of his/her own kind.

Ten points that educators should address are listed:

- 1. We should teach people to be *authentic*, to be aware of their inner selves and to hear their inner-feeling voices.
- 2. We should teach people to *transcend their cultural conditioning* and become world citizens.
- 3. We should help people *discover their vocation in life*, their calling, fate or destiny. This is especially focused on finding the right career and the right mate.
- 4. We should teach people that *life is precious*, that there is joy to be experienced in life, and if people are open to seeing the good and joyous in all kinds of situations, it makes life worth living.
- 5. We must *accept the person* as he or she is and help the person learn their inner nature. From real knowledge of aptitudes and limitations we can know what to build upon, what potentials are really there.
- 6. We must see that the person's *basic needs are satisfied*. This includes safety, belongingness, and esteem needs.
- 7. We should *refreshen consciousness*, teaching the person to appreciate beauty and the other good things in nature and in living.
- 8. We should teach people that *controls are good*, and complete abandon is bad. It takes control to improve the quality of life in all areas.
- 9. We should teach people to transcend the trifling problems and *grapple with the serious problems in life*. These include the problems of injustice, of pain, suffering, and death.
- 10. We must teach people to be *good choosers*. They must be given practice in making good choices.