

THE BE-ATTITUDES OF A TEACHER

By Rev. Joy Tuttle

1. BE PREPARED. Prepare yourself with treatment work before every class; establish your consciousness. Become an open channel for that which needs to be revealed by means of you. Be prepared with a lesson or an activity. One sentence from the teacher properly constructed and thought out, can generate an hours worth of active discussion and revelation.
2. BE ENTHUSIASTIC. Convey ideas and concepts which have meaning to you. Let your message be alive and energetic. Avoid intellectual concepts which have no relationship to the "here and now" livingness of the youth. Be excited about what you are sharing and you will generate enthusiasm in the youth. Remember, it is not our place to change anyone or how they think. Simply communicate your ideas and allow others the space in which their ideas may unfold. Spare yourself the anguish of a "savior complex".
3. BE A FRIEND. Guidelines are necessary; establish and maintain them with firmness, patience and understanding. Remember, consciousness is the builder of your experience. Develop a consciousness of love and support and you will establish meaningful relationships between yourself and the youth.
4. BE FLEXIBLE. Be willing to "flow with" and, at the same time, use your talent or genius to keep discussions and activities within the guidelines of the lesson.
5. BE AWARE AND ACCEPTING . . . of the youth as individuals; be sensitive to their needs. Develop a non-judgmental atmosphere and an attitude of acceptance. Remain objective and free from judgments and labels, with yourself, as well as the youth. Build a bridge of trust between yourself and the youth and they will always have the means to meet you half-way.
6. BE FREE . . . to be creative. Develop a sense of humor and a sense of adventure. Let your own "inner child" out to play. Don't be afraid to try something new. Young people have the most remarkable capacity to use their imagination in unique and creative ways. Consider the manner in which learning can be fun for you, then TRY IT!!!!
7. BE YOU. Allow yourself the pure JOY of being yourself without the fears and anxieties of rejection or a sense of inadequacy. Fears build walls of defense and young people are sensitive and quick to detect our insecurities. This results in a breakdown of communication which closes the doors on the learning process.
8. BE READY . . . to learn and unfold with the youth; to experience the JOY and FULFILLMENT of a most rewarding and enriching activity. . . that of being a part of the "youth consciousness", and the exciting unfoldment of our future.