



## **Autobiography**

### **Joseph M. Monosmith**

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I was born, raised, and attended college in central Iowa until moving to Bismarck, North Dakota to attend the University of Mary to play baseball and obtain a bachelor's degree in Physical Education and Coaching/Sports Studies. As the oldest of eight children in an extremely busy family, I grew up constantly surrounded by activities, sports, and young children. I was a perpetual participant in any type of sport, but especially baseball and soccer. My school experience was somewhat unique as I was homeschooled until college, yet also obtained experience in public school systems through sports and some course work. As a result, this unique experience allowed me to understand and appreciate the importance of adapting teaching to individual learners in a classroom environment. Consequently, it is this foundation of sports and school that caused my desire to coach and teach children physical education.

In all honesty, there were several events and people in my life that were instrumental in guiding me toward the teaching profession. The first instrumental factor in guiding me toward the teaching profession was growing up in a large family. As the oldest, I took pride in helping to keep the younger children occupied and active. Therefore, I created countless learning activities for my siblings, on top of what my mother had planned. This facilitated my interest in elementary and middle school education as I discovered that I enjoyed helping children learn. Also, I determined that I had an aptitude for conceiving entertaining methods of instruction to engage children. These events guided me toward a teaching career.

A second instrumental factor was an excellent youth baseball coach, along with my lifelong love of sports. My mother always said that if a baby could have been born with a ball in hand, I would have been the first one to accomplish that. When I was about twelve, I went to an amazing baseball camp in which the coach took a special interest in my development. I continued to train and work with this coach, whom exhibited the best qualities of coaches by teaching me the safety and fundamentals of the sport, while still allowing me to enjoy the game. Later, I began to work and coach at the same facility. This coach and work experience sustained my love of sports and confirmed my desire to pursue a career in coaching and teaching physical education.

Throughout these experiences, I have developed several philosophies that I hope to incorporate in teaching. The first philosophy is that all students are unique and learn differently. Therefore, it is important to be able to adapt teaching methods to individual learners in a classroom environment through a range of learning styles and activities. This adaptability would include multiple instructional methods, such as linguistic, visual, auditory, and kinesthetic, to reach all students. The second philosophy is that everyone in the classroom needs to contribute as a student, teacher, and thinker. Even the teacher can learn from the students. One way to accomplish this is through feedback, which is imperative to teaching. Additionally, students will actively learn as they gain necessary skills to become an involved participant in learning. The third philosophy is to foster critical thinking and problem-solving strategies, which are critical to lifelong learning and life in general. I expect my classes to utilize a wide variety of techniques to facilitate these skills and philosophies.

Thus, teaching is not only a personal goal, but a privilege to be entrusted with the development of young children. Life is a learning experience. Therefore, never stop learning and helping others to learn and achieve their life goals, which is my ultimate ambition as a teacher.