

2008 UF COE Writing Contest Entry

(This is one of 27 entries submitted in the College's recent writing contest on the topic of "What's Good in Education?". Visit the [Writing Contest home page](#) for links to other entries, including the winner.)

WHAT'S GOOD IN EDUCATION?

Reaching out to one more child

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Every day in schools all around the nation, teachers and administrators are giving everything they have to change the life of a child. As a College of Education student at the University of Florida, I have had the opportunity to intern in a variety of schools and work with teachers who exhibit a variety of teaching styles. The one thing they all have in common is their passion for teaching.

I currently work with a reading coach. The work she does with struggling readers is absolutely amazing. She is funded through Title I, and the money is not going to waste. Students who have not been able to identify letters leave her classroom confident in their reading abilities and able to tackle grade level material. This is not an easy road, in fact some days it feels as though no progress has been made at all. However, by differentiating instruction for each child, and using Success for All reading materials, these students progress steadily until they are back on track with their peers.

She is just one of many teachers who spend countless hours planning lessons, conducting research, and setting up centers so that children are engaged and learning for the longest amount of time. However, this is not as laborious for students as it once was thanks to many teachers who have found ways to make teaching relevant to students' lives, and therefore meaningful and fun.

The field of education so often focuses on the negative aspects, because we are constantly striving to improve. Educators are never satisfied and always wanting to make the curriculum better or improve students' use of strategies. We are never going to be happy because we always know we can make it better, and reach out to one more child. Although some may see this as being pessimistic, I see it as being perfectionists. Educators may never be perfect, but they are not going to stop trying.

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