

## MY PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

by

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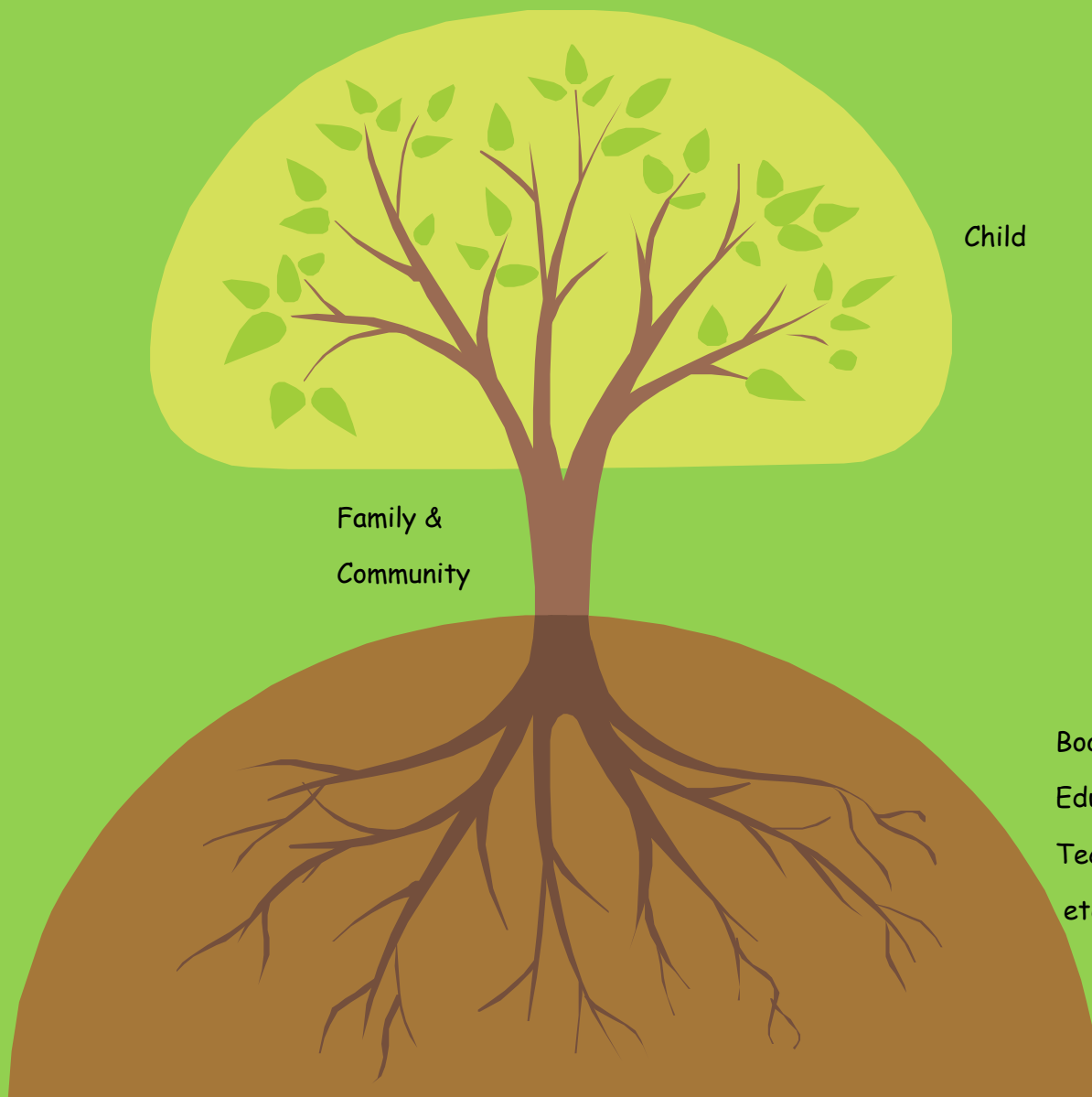
I visualize a child's education as a tall, verdant tree. The roots -- strong and deep, absorbing and transporting water and nutrients -- represent sources of knowledge and learning: books, educators, technology, etc. The trunk -- sturdy and wide, providing support and reflecting the tree's history -- represent the powerful influence of family and community. The branches and leaves -- ever reaching upward and constantly growing and changing -- represent the developing child. And the sun and the air (without which the tree's growth would not be possible) represent the natural world with all its beauty and bounty.

We all know that in order for the branches and leaves of a tree to flourish, they must be open to receive the nourishment and energy that comes from the sun, air, and water, and then they must use it to create new growth. Likewise, in order for a child to learn and grow as a human being, he/she must be open to receive the instruction and guidance that come from books, educators, technology, family, community, and the natural world, and then he/she must apply it to his/her own life.

I believe in freedom of thought and choice, in individuality and creativity, and in personal responsibility. As a teacher, I have the duty to "set a table" full of knowledge and learning tools, and -- to the best of my ability -- to encourage and facilitate learning, critical thinking, and productivity. My students then choose to come and "partake of the feast." I don't and can't control the learning, thinking, and application of knowledge. That is each student's responsibility. Therefore, I give my students full credit and praise for their good work and accomplishments. They deserve it.

# A Child's Education

Natural World



Child

Family &  
Community

Books  
Educators  
Technology  
etc.