

## MY PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

by

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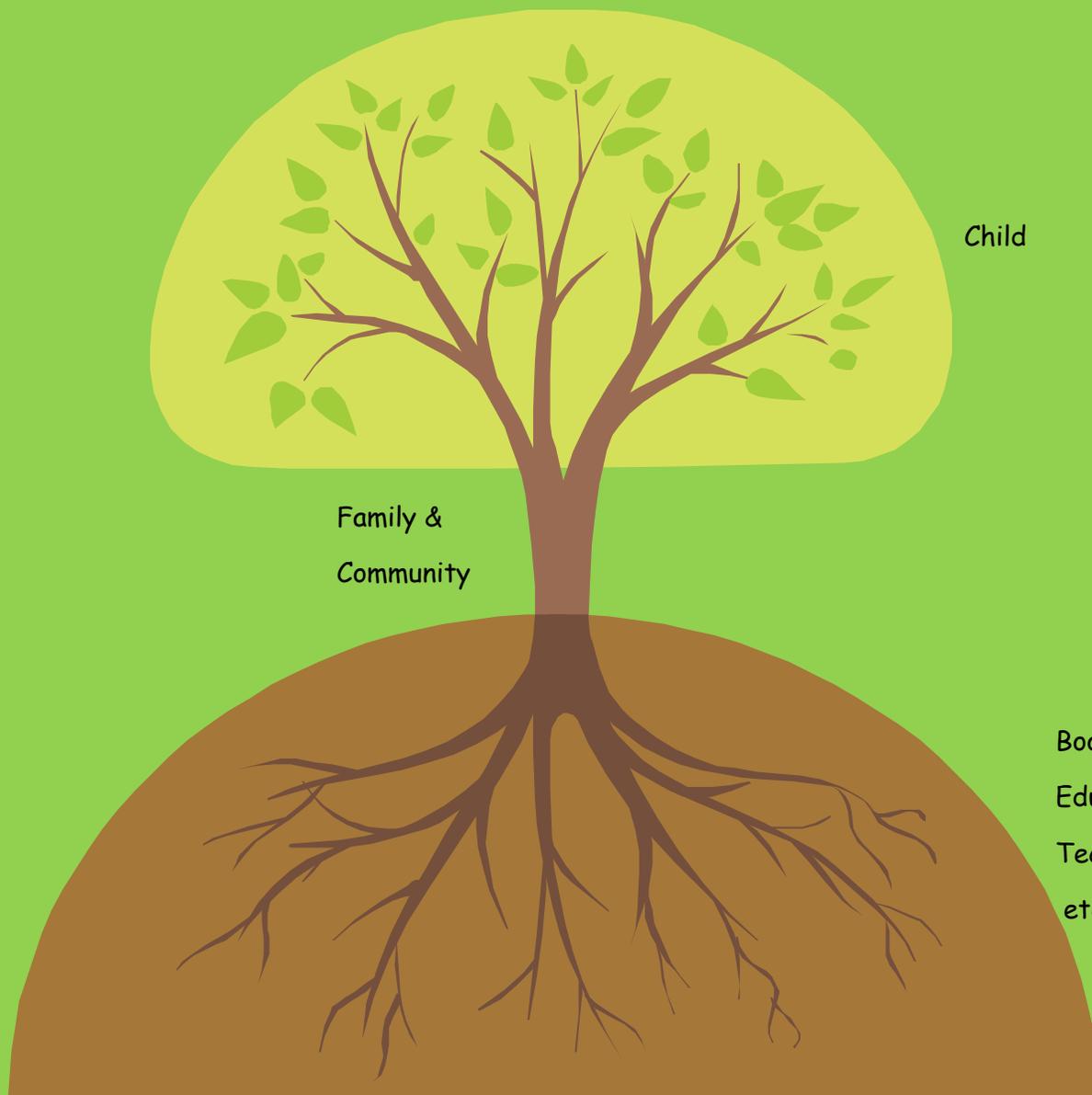
I visualize a child's education as a tall, verdant tree. The roots -- strong and deep, absorbing and transporting water and nutrients -- represent sources of knowledge and learning: books, educators, technology, etc. The trunk -- sturdy and wide, providing support and reflecting the tree's history -- represents 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 bounty and beauty.

We all know that for the branches and leaves of a tree to flourish, first they must be open to receive the nourishment and energy that comes from the sun, air, and water, and then they must use them to create new growth. Likewise, in order for a child to learn and grow as a human being, first 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 them to his/her own life.

I believe in freedom of choice and thought, 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 active learning, critical thinking, and productivity. My students then choose to come and "partake of the feast." I don't and can't control the actual learning, thinking, and application of knowledge. Those are each student's responsibilities. Therefore, I give students recognition and praise for their good work and accomplishments. "Credit to whom credit is due." Every hard-working student deserves it.

# A Child's Education

Natural World



Child

Family &  
Community

Books  
Educators  
Technology  
etc.