

# ECED 2121-501: Practicum Curriculum Development through Play: Birth through Age 4 (PreK)

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**University of New Mexico-Valencia Campus**  
*Spring Semester 2024: January 15, 2024 – May 11, 2024*

**Instructor:** Gabriela Peterson, M. Ed, Ph.D.

**Classroom:** Online via Canvas (canvas.unm.edu)

**Class Time:** Asynchronous

**Office Hours:** Mondays (10:00 am-12:00 pm via Zoom)

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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The beginning practicum course is a co-requisite with the course Curriculum Development through Play- Birth through Age 4. The field-based component of this course will provide experiences that address curriculum content that is relevant for children from birth through age four in developmentally and culturally sensitive ways of integrating content into teaching and learning experiences. Information on adapting content areas to meet the needs of children with special needs and the development of IFSPs is included. Curriculum development in all areas, including literacy, numeracy, the arts, health, science, social skills, and adaptive learning for children from birth through age four, is emphasized.

## **COURSE COMPETENCIES**

This course is part of the *New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Development Articulation Catalog of Courses and Programs*. The following objectives are taken from the New Mexico Public Education Department's Common Core Competencies for early childhood professionals (see Common Core Content manual). Upon completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate the following competencies at the established level of proficiency:

- Provide a variety of activities that facilitate the development of the whole child in the following areas: Physical/motor, social/emotional, language/cognitive, and adaptive/living skills. A.5.
- Develop, implement, and evaluate an integrated curriculum that focuses on children's development and interests, using their language, home experiences, and cultural values. D.5.
- Provides and uses anti-bias materials and literature and experiences in all content areas of the curriculum. D.7.
- Create and manage inclusive learning environments that provide individual and cooperative opportunities for children to construct their own knowledge through

various strategies that include decision-making, problem-solving, and inquiry experiences. E.4.

- Demonstrate understanding that each child's creative expression is unique and can be encouraged through diverse ways, including creative play. E.5.
- Plan blocks of uninterrupted time for children to persist at self-chosen activities, both indoors and outdoors. E.6.
- Demonstrate understanding of the influence of the physical setting, schedule, routines, and transitions on children and use these experiences to promote children's development and learning. E.7.
- Use and explain the rationale for developmentally appropriate methods that include play, small group projects, open-ended questioning, group discussion, problem-solving, cooperative learning, and inquiry experiences to help young children develop intellectual curiosity, solve problems, and make decisions. E.8

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Provide or facilitate a variety of activities that foster development of the whole child in the following areas: Physical/motor, social/emotional, language/cognitive, and adaptive/living skills.
2. Based on observation and interaction with children, explain, using a strengths-based perspective, how each child is unique and can be encouraged through diverse ways, including creative play.
3. Utilize a physical setting, schedule, routines, and transitions to provide quality experiences that promote children's development and learning.

### **SUGGESTED TEXTBOOK**

Tyminski, Carroll (2014). *Your Early Childhood Practicum and Student Teaching Experience: Guidelines for Success, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.* Boston, Mass.: Pearson.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

As the class is asynchronous online, there is no attendance to be taken. However, assignments must be completed each week by Sunday at midnight to be accepted. You have all week at your convenience to read or watch the material and complete the assignment, so there are no late assignments except for extreme circumstances. Quizzes and exams will be administered on Canvas at specific times that will be posted in advance. It is the prerogative of the instructor to decide what is an extreme circumstance. Email me if you have something unusual that comes up that interferes with your ability to complete assignments.

Attendance in an online course should be approached the same as you would in a face-to-face course. If this course was offered face-to-face, it would meet (at a minimum) twice a week; thus, you should log into Canvas a minimum of two times per week. Keep in mind that

coursework is done outside of lecture times, so you need to log in throughout the week to complete all the assigned activities. Plan to be an active participant in course discussions and communication.

Attendance and participation are required to successfully complete this course. The instructor is not responsible for withdrawing students. A “W” will not be given as a final grade. The student is responsible for following UNM Valencia's policy for dropping or withdrawing from a course – be aware that financial consequences may occur from these actions. Students who miss two discussion boards and/or assignments/assessments will be dropped from the course. And any student registered for the course when the semester begins who fails to submit all the course introduction activities by the end of the first week will be dropped from the course.

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

1. **Background Check/Background Check.** All students are required to provide proof of fingerprinting/background check before the start of their practicum hours.
2. **Pre-Field Experience Conference.** Students are required to meet with their cooperating teacher to discuss the goals and expectations related to their time at the school site prior to or during the first week of field experience.
3. **Contract for Field Experience.** Students are required to complete a contract for field experience before the start of their practicum. The contract for field experience must be signed by both the cooperating teacher and the practicum student.
4. **Practicum Student Agreement.** Students are required to complete a practicum agreement before the start of their practicum. The practicum student agreement must be signed by both the cooperating teacher and the practicum student.
5. **Field Experience.** Students must complete at least sixty Practicum hours at a licensed public school early childhood program, including charter schools or a Head Start center. The facility must be a licensed child care and education center through CYFD (Children, Youth, and Families Department) with a three-star or above quality ranking.
6. **Practicum Timesheet.** Students are required to complete a practicum timesheet form to keep track of their practicum hours.
7. **Practicum Journal Entries.** Students will keep weekly observational entries in a journal. Journal entries will enable students to record and discuss specific evidence of what the teachers do during caregiving routines that demonstrate warm, responsive, and nurturing behaviors of care/educators. Journal entries must be a complete thought and have at least five lines of text. Journal entries will be submitted on Canvas.
8. **Post-Field Experience Evaluation.** Students are required to receive an evaluation from their cooperating teacher at the completion of the Field Experience.
9. **Post-Field Experience Reflection.** Students are required to complete a reflection activity at the end of their field experience.

## **GRADING POLICY**

This course is competency-based. Student competency will be evaluated based on the criteria presented below.

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Percentage of student's grade</b>
Pre-Field Experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Practicum Location</li><li>• Fingerprinting</li><li>• Background Check</li><li>• Pre-Field Experience Conference</li><li>• Contract for Field Experience</li><li>• Practicum Student Agreement</li></ul>	30%
On-site Field Experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Practicum Timesheet</li><li>• Practicum Journal Entries</li></ul>	50%
Post-Field Experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Post-Field Experience Evaluation</li><li>• Post-Field Experience Reflection</li></ul>	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **PERCENTAGES AND GRADE EQUIVALENT**

Points will be recorded for each activity and totaled at the end of the semester. The grading scale below will apply based on the percentage of total points possible.

As	Bs	Cs	Ds	F
100-97=A+	89-87= B+	79-77= C+	69-66 D+	58-0 F
96-93= A	86-83 =B	76-73 =C	65-62 D	
92-90 =A-	82-80 =B-	72-70 =C-	61-59 D-	

## **DUE DATES POLICY**

Students are expected to turn in work on the date that it is due. Late assignments will be accepted; however, 5 points will be deducted every day it is late. No late postings on the Discussion Board are permitted. See "Late Work and Exemptions" below.

## **LATE WORK EXEMPTIONS**

You can miss three discussion boards over the course of the semester and recover the grades by writing an expanded post. Requirements: 1) 1 page typewritten and double-spaced, 12 pt. font, default margins. 2) Email as an attachment within one week of the original due date. See “Due Dates Policy” above.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Having academic integrity is paramount to your success in any class. Plagiarism or cheating is not tolerated. Any instance of this will result in a grade of zero for that assignment. Here is the link to the UNM Academic Dishonesty Policy:

<https://policy.unm.edu/regents-policies/section-4/4-8.html>. The policy states:

*Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or who otherwise fails to meet the expected standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in course work may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.*

Academic Dishonesty is defined as:

*"Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.*

## **NETIQUETTE**

Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving politely online. Something about cyberspace makes it easy for people to forget that they are interacting with other real people. The following bullet points cover some basics of communicating online:

1. Be sensitive to classmates coming from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds and holding different political and religious beliefs. Plus, they will have other differences.
2. Use good taste when composing your responses in Discussion Forums. Swearing and using profanity are often insensitive to your classmates, so they should be avoided. Also, consider that slang can be misunderstood or misinterpreted.

3. Don't use all capital letters when composing your responses, as this is considered "shouting" on the Internet and is regarded as impolite or aggressive. It can also be stressful on the eye when trying to read your message.
4. Be respectful of others' views and opinions. Avoid "flaming" (publicly attacking or insulting) them, as this can cause hurt feelings and decrease the chances of learning from different points of view.
5. Be careful when using acronyms. If you use an acronym, it is best to spell out its meaning first, then put it in parentheses afterward, such as Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). After that, you can use the acronym freely throughout your message.
6. Use good grammar and spelling, and avoid using text-messaging shortcuts.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

UNM is committed to providing equitable learning opportunities for all students. If you have a documented disability, the Equal Access Services office will provide me with a letter outlining your accommodations. I will then discuss the accommodations with you to determine the best learning environment. If you feel that you need accommodations but have not documented your disability, please contact Sarah Clawson, the coordinator for Equal Access Services at 925-8840 or [sjclawson@unm.edu](mailto:sjclawson@unm.edu).

### **CITIZENSHIP AND/OR IMMIGRATION STATUS**

All students are welcome in this class regardless of citizenship, residency, or immigration status. Your professor will respect your privacy if you choose to disclose your status. As for all students in the class, family emergency-related absences are normally excused with reasonable notice to the professor, as noted in the attendance guidelines above. UNM as an institution has made a core commitment to the success of all our students, including members of our undocumented community. The Administration's welcome is found on our website: <http://undocumented.unm.edu/>.

### **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Founded in 1889, the University of New Mexico sits on the traditional homelands of the Pueblo of Sandia. The original peoples of New Mexico Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache, since time immemorial, have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide. We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations and also acknowledge our committed relationship with Indigenous peoples. We gratefully recognize our history.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Activities and Assignments</b>
Week 1 (Jan 15 - Jan 21, 2024)	Fingerprinting
Week 2 (Jan 22 - Jan 28, 2024)	Background Check
Week 3 (Jan 29 – Feb 4, 2024)	Education Facility Selection
Week 4 (Feb 5 – Feb 11, 2024)	Pre-Field Experience Conference
Week 5 Feb 12 – Feb 18, 2024)	Field Experience Contract
Week 6 (Feb 19 – Feb 25, 2024)	Practicum Student Agreement
Week 7 (Feb 26 – Mar 3, 2024)	On-site Field Experience Journal Entry# 1
Week 8 (Mar 4- Mar 10, 2024)	On-site Field Experience Journal Entry# 2
Spring Break (Mar 10 – Mar 17, 2024)	
Week 9 (Mar 18 – Mar 24, 2024)	On-site Field Experience Journal Entry# 3
Week 10 (Mar 25 – Mar 31, 2024)	On-site Field Experience Journal Entry# 4
Week 11 (Apr 1- Apr 7, 2024)	On-site Field Experience Journal Entry# 5
Week 12 (Apr 8 – Apr 14, 2024)	On-site Field Experience Journal Entry# 6
Week 13 (Apr 15 – Apr 21, 2024)	On-site Field Experience Journal Entry# 7

Week 14 (Apr 22 – Apr 28, 2024)	On-site Field Experience Journal Entry# 8
Week 15 (Apr 29 – May 5, 2024)	Post-Field Experience Evaluation Journal Entry# 9
Week 16 (May 6 – May 11, 2024)	Field Experience Reflection Journal Entry# 10
All work due May 11, 2024	

***This syllabus should be viewed as a guide. While every attempt is made to provide an accurate overview of the course, circumstances and events may make it necessary for the professor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes to the syllabus are at the discretion of the instructor and will be made with advance notice. Changes will be posted in the Announcement section of Canvas.***