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C&I 367.01: Early Childhood Practicum

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Early Childhood Practicum C&I 367 Spring 2003

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Course Description:

This course provides students with an opportunity to participate in a rich and exciting early childhood program. The Learning And Belonging (LAB) preschool enrolls children ages 3½ – 6 for preschool and extended-day play and learning. University students in this class are immersed in the daily events of planning and facilitating learning experiences for children in this program – everything from greeting parents, serving snacks and supervising recess to planning a science experiment and setting up a dramatic play area. Students will read articles about early childhood learning and development and participate in weekly seminars and discussion groups. Students will also engage in self-reflection and discovery through a variety of written and verbal assignments.

Required Reading:

Bredenkamp, S. & Copple, C. (ED) (1997) *Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Practice*. Washington DC: NAEYC.

Accommodations:

If you need accommodations to participate in this course, please contact the instructors.

Course Policies:

- ❑ Students must complete all assignments in order to receive a passing grade in this course.
- ❑ Students must schedule **6 hours a week** in the preschool. These hours must be in 2 to 3 hour blocks and must be consistent from week to week. Students must be prompt, completely engaged during the time they are present and stay for the full time scheduled. Students who are unable to attend an assigned work period must call the preschool and notify the supervising teachers as soon as possible. The missed hours will be rescheduled.
- ❑ To be successful, practicum courses require students and teachers to work closely together. The instructors of this course are available to students for support during the operating hours of the preschool program 7:30 am – 5:30 pm and encourage students to visit with them regularly and especially if they are in need of additional assistance.
- ❑ Students are required to check in with a supervising teacher at the beginning of each 'shift' to receive specific instructions and guidelines for the day. In addition, students are expected to meet with a supervising teacher for a weekly debriefing.
- ❑ All students must attend the weekly seminar and discussion. The hour for this seminar will be set during the first week of the semester to fit in the schedules of the students enrolled.
- ❑ Assignments are due by 4:00 on the day assigned unless other arrangements are made with the instructors.
- ❑ Plagiarism in any form will be dealt with according to University Policy. Take precautions to credit your sources carefully! Check with your instructor if you have doubts or questions.

Objectives and Assignments:

This is a brief description of the assignments that will engage you in the Early Childhood Practicum and help you meet the course objectives. You will receive more specific instructions, grading criteria, materials and forms for each assignment.

To help you better understand development of young children, you will:

- ❑ Complete required readings as assigned.
- ❑ Attend and participate in weekly seminar discussion sessions.
- ❑ Be assigned two children as your focus for the semester. For each child you will observe, document, analyze and take action to promote learning and development. (300 points)

To help you learn more about the process of teaching young children, you will:

- ❑ Plan and conduct 8 classroom activities. (400 points/ 50 points for each)
- ❑ After each activity is completed you will summarize the experience during seminar discussion session.

To help you better understand yourself as a teacher, you will...

- ❑ Attend and participate in weekly seminar discussion sessions. (100 points)
- ❑ Complete weekly reflection sheets exploring your self-observations, feelings, discoveries and new personal goals that emerged from the week's activities. (100 points)
- ❑ Meet with your supervising teacher for guidance and discussion at least once a week.
- ❑ Write a brief self-reflection paper (5 – 7 pages) that summarizes the most significant aspects of your experiences in the Learning And Belonging Preschool Field Experience. (100 points)

Your final Grade will be based on the total points you accumulate by the end of the semester. Remember that you must complete all assignments to receive a passing grade.

- A = 901 – 1000 points
- B = 801 - 901 points
- C = 701 - 800 points
- D = 601 - 700 points

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