

Course Outline

PROGRAM: Early Childhood Education
COURSE TITLE: Preschool Education COURSE NUMBER: ED 102-3
COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Kathy Nielsen DATE: Jan. '81

Course Philosophy

This course is designed to help students develop an understanding of the interdependence of human relations and curriculum content, to help students internalize the concept of the "whole" in the learning environment.

Course Goals

1. To provide the student with knowledge of the teacher's role in facilitating children's learning through acting as mediator between the child and the environment.
2. To provide the student with the knowledge and understanding of the wide scope for learning which play activities offer to children while meeting their developmental needs.
3. To provide the student with an overview of some of the major writings relating to play activities and the teacher's role in the nursery school.
4. To further develop the observing and recording techniques used in understanding children's behavior.

Course Objectives

The student will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of and ability to work as mediator between the child and the learning environment.
2. Demonstrate a knowledge of how children learn and be able to apply this knowledge in specific learning encounters.
3. Develop a concrete piece of educational equipment which will enhance a child's understanding and/or perception.
4. Present an organized picture file with cross references and ideas for use, relating to aspects of the young child's experience.
5. Present an organized "idea file" including art and snack recipes, and ideas for art, movement or field trip activities, with cross references where applicable.
6. Participate in workshops presented to the class in various program areas such as blocks, art, science, water, sand. . . .

Methodology

Lectures, assigned readings, discussions, seminars, films and workshops will be used to fulfill the above objectives.

The student will write assigned observations relating to the child and his experience. These observations will be due one week from date of assignment.

Presentation of teaching materials developed by the student will give him/her an opportunity to integrate theory and practice.

A picture file relating to the child's world and curriculum areas, begun in the first semester, is to be submitted for evaluation Wednesday, Feb. 23/81.

The idea file for each student's own resource, begun in the first semester, is to be submitted for evaluation on Monday, March 9, 1981.

Learning Device

This piece of equipment or material should be designed to improve perception or to extend a concept of an individual child or small group. This may be an original piece of equipment or an adaptation of material already in the school (for example, using a piece of equipment in a way it was not designed to be used).

Use the attached form for the written part of the assignment. Before using the device in the nursery school, you will present it to the class. The ensuing discussion should assist you in streamlining or tidying up your idea, perhaps clarifying some aspect of your presentation.

Your presentation to the children will be supervised by the instructor.

Finally, you will write up the presentation experience, and make your own assessment of its success in terms of your original objectives.

Written assessment due March 11/81.

THIS ASSIGNMENT MUST BE TYPEWRITTEN.

SyllabusWEEK 1

- A. Introduction to course
Set up workshop groups, learning device, presentation dates
- B. Take up exam
- C. Assignment
Readings: • The Nursery School, Katherine Read, W.M. Saunders, 1971.
pp. 187-209, 263-274
• Ministry leaflet, pp. 18

Syllabus continued...

WEEK 2

- A. Understanding Behaviour
 - foundations for feeling secure and confident
 - influence of adults
 - helping the child recognize feelings of self and others
 - expressing feelings in acceptable ways
 - children's needs differ from adults' needs
- B. Dramatic Play
 - role playing
- C. Projects: pg. 243
Assignment: • pp. 231-243

WEEK 3

- A. Feeling of Hostility
 - aggressiveness and assertiveness
 - clues to causes
 - releasing feelings safely
 - dominion play
 - passive child
- B. Small-Group Problem Solving
- C. Readings: K. Read, pp. 211-230
Articles: • "Aggressiveness in Children"
• "Dominion in Children's Play"

WEEK 4

- A. The Function of Play
 - value
 - TV and play
 - as a growth process
- B. Observing and Recording
- C. Assignment:
Readings: Articles: • "Play as a Growth Process"
• "Play as an Avenue of Intellectual Development"
• "Sesame Street: Magic or Malevolence"
- D. The Process of Learning
 - sensori-motor experiencesAssignment:
Readings: K. Read, pp. 247-261
Article: • "Teaching Children as They Play"

Syllabus continued...

- WEEK 5
- A. Observing Children at Play Curriculum Areas
 - B. Learning Device Presentations
 - C. Article: • "Cognitive Goals in the N.S."
K. Read, pp. 275-299
Projects: K. Read, p. 273, #1 and 2
- WEEK 6
- A. Loss and Death - Guest Speaker
 - B. Assignment: Articles: • "Effects of Experience with Loss and Death Among Preschoolers"
• "A Matter of Life and Death"
• "Coping with Death"
 - C. Mid-Term Exam - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1981
- WEEK 7
- A. Block Workshop
 - B. Learning Device Presentations
 - C. Film
- WEEK 8
- A. Water Play and Sand Workshop
 - B. Learning Device Presentations
 - C. Picture File Due: MARCH 4, 1981
- WEEK 9
- A. Cooking Workshop
 - B. Learning Device Presentations
- WEEK 10
- A. Table Toys
 - B. Learning Device Presentations
 - C. Assignment Article: • "Table Toys, an Undeveloped Resource"
Idea File Due: MARCH 16, 1981
- WEEK 11
- A. Sciencing Workshop
 - B. Learning Devices
 - C. Assignment Articles: • "Sciencing with Young Children"
Bring to class (for science workshop) an interesting science experience or useful information for science project

Syllabus continued...

- WEEK 12
- A. Learning Devices
 - B. Language Development and the Role of the Teacher
 - C. Assignment: Articles:
 - "Building on Experiences in Literature"
 - "An Approach to Language Learning"
 - "Methods of Speech Stimulation for Non-Verbal Children"Projects: K. Read, pp. 273, #1, 2, & 3

- WEEK 13
- A. Final Examination - APRIL 13, 1981
 - B. Film, Group Discussion and Problem Solving
 - C. Learning Device Description of Presentation and Evaluation Due: APRIL 17, 1981

- WEEK 14
- A. Workshop
 - B. Rewrites

- WEEK 15
- Review of Exam
 - Evaluation of Course

