

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide students with a working knowledge of natural science and with a knowledge of a process and an open-ended approach to teaching natural science to preschoolers.

COURSE PHILOSOPHY

Most teaching in the preschool is spontaneous and process-oriented. An open-ended, discovery-through-experience approach is used with the children. This is particularly so in the natural science area of the curriculum. This course is designed to provide the student with the maximum opportunity to integrate this teaching strategy into his/her teaching practice by balancing process and content.

COURSE GOALS

1. To help individuals become self-directed learners (preschoolers, student-teachers).
2. To help the students acquire a working knowledge of natural science.
3. To provide the students with experience in presenting natural science learning opportunities to colleagues and preschoolers by using a process-oriented, open-ended approach.

TERMINAL OBJECTIVES

The student will demonstrate ability through course development, project construction and implementation:

1. to recognize needs and interest of the preschool child relating to natural science;
2. to understand the natural science materials and information which will be used in the program (general background knowledge);
3. to identify, locate and utilize available resources for a natural science program;
4. to organize chosen natural science learning environments for nursery school children;
5. to select appropriate methods of presentation of natural science experiences using process-oriented, open-ended teaching methods;
6. to apply knowledge, understanding and skill in designing a sequence of natural science learning experiences;

7. to evaluate one's teaching, the learning of the children and the natural science program;
8. to communicate and interact effectively with colleagues by microteaching the natural science program designed;
9. to deal with the dynamics of interpersonal relations with colleagues in class and in the nursery school;
10. to integrate theory and practice relating to group development and group process.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Present to the class pertinent background information relating to an animal of your choice which is native to Canada with preference for our region. Presentation schedule to be arranged in class. (Each student will present a circle). 15%
Prepare a suitable information packet to be used in the preschool. Use information to present in a preschool setting, and complete reporting form - 5%
2. Choose a topic (in groups of two) from one of the following: water, air, fire, seasons (weather), solar system, dinosaurs, plants, trees, machines, rocks and minerals, magnets, and reptiles (or a topic of your choice cleared with the instructor).
Present background information to the class regarding your topic. Include one visual presentation relating to your topic (experiment or other).
15% - dates to be arranged in class
(As in assignment #1, these projects are to be presented in a preschool setting as well and complete reporting form)
5%
3. Plan in detail a science curriculum (for 3 months) to be integrated into the preschool curriculum. Include appropriate bibliography for preschool children.
25% - due April 7, 1989
4. Read a book specifically related to Natural Science (please clear with instructor). As you read, keep a journal of your impressions. Quote your favourite passages and compare with other materials you have read.
10% - due March 17, 1989
5. FINAL EXAM - based on lectures and classroom presentations
15%
6. Participation - class attendance and involvement - 10%

