



**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
COURSE OUTLINE - FALL 2013
CD 1330 UNDERSTANDING CHILDREN'S PLAY**

*To be recognized for educational excellence in the fields of early learning & child care
and educational assistant training.*

INSTRUCTOR: Terrah Lindsay B.Sc., M.S.

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OFFICE HOURS: Monday 11:30 - 1:00, Tuesday/Thursday 12:00 - 12:30

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:

CD 1000 Child Development 1

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Although a text is NOT required for this course, a number of readings/resources will be placed on moodle; it is your responsibility to become familiar with this learning tool and to check it regularly.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an introduction to the central role of play in early learning and child care settings, with an emphasis on developmentally appropriate, culturally-sensitive practices. This course focuses on a number of topics including the nature, value, and types of play, as well as important theories and issues regarding play. Students will also learn about the role of the practitioner in play, including the use of appropriate observation and documentation to understand and support children's development through play.

CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS: 3

DELIVERY MODE(S):

Classroom instruction will include a combination of lectures, as well as small and large group work. Audio-visual material and additional resources will also be used.

OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- *Explain how attitudes perceptions and theories of play have changed over time and how they have influenced practice in Early Learning and Child Care.
- *Define play and identify examples of play and non-play experiences.
- *Explain how play based programs meet children's developmental needs.
- *Classify children's play episodes, using the categories of play identified by Parten and Piaget.
- *Use appropriate observation and documentation tools and techniques to understand, and interpret children's play.
- *Articulate the role of the practitioner in facilitating, supporting, and extending children's play.
- *Discuss current issues regarding children's play.

GRADING CRITERIA:

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE			
GRADING CONVERSION CHART			
Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A ⁺	4.0	90 - 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	85 - 89	
A ⁻	3.7	80 - 84	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B ⁺	3.3	77 - 79	
B	3.0	73 - 76	GOOD
B ⁻	2.7	70 - 72	
C ⁺	2.3	67 - 69	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	63 - 66	
C ⁻	1.7	60 - 62	
D ⁺	1.3	55 - 59	MINIMAL PASS
D	1.0	50 - 54	
F	0.0	0 - 49	FAIL
WF	0.0	0	FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline

TRANSFERABILITY:

** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.

The last date to withdraw with permission is November 2, 2012.

In order to obtain credit for this course, students must achieve a minimum of a "C-"

EVALUATIONS (How do you get marks):

Play Assignment	30%	October 24 th
Observation	30%	November 21 st
Quiz	25%	December 12 th

Attendance/in class assignments/participation 15%

If a student misses more than 20% of scheduled classes, a grade of 'O' will be assigned.

ALL of the evaluations must be completed in order to pass the course.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

It is the right of the student and of the instructor to a favorable learning/teaching environment. It is the responsibility of the student and the instructor to engage in appropriate adult behaviors that positively support learning. This includes, but is not limited to treating others with dignity and respect. Cell phones are to be used outside of class time.

Students are responsible for missed class time, including the gathering of resources handed out during class. Be sure to check moodle.

The College expects students' conduct to be in accordance with basic rights and responsibilities. Refer to the College Admission Guide at

<http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or
<http://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Refer to the College Admission Guide at

<http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or
<http://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>

These are serious issues and will be dealt with severely.

Assignments

To be submitted electronically.

The Value of Play

30%

October 24

You may choose to complete this assignment on your own, during practicum, or with a partner in the Children's Center Demonstration Preschool Program.*

Observation

Observe 4 different play episodes - the play episodes will be of different children on their own, or in a group.

Take 3-4 pictures of each play episode.

Take notes of what the children SAID and DID.

Written Summary

For each play episode include:

- a) Child's age
- b) A description of what was happening and the child's (or children's) actions
- c) Sounds, words, and/or comments made by the child (or children).
- d) Pictures of the play episode.
- e) Explain why the activity is considered play, or not (refer to your class notes)
- f) Describe the learning/development that might be acquired through each play scenario for each of the developmental categories/domains:
 - i. physical
 - ii. creative
 - iii. cognitive
 - iv. language and literacy
 - v. social and emotional
- g) Identify the category of play:
 - a. Social
 - i. onlooker, solitary, parallel, associative, cooperative
 - b. Cognitive
 - i. functional, constructive, symbolic, games with rules

You must have 2 play episodes depicting social play and 2 play episodes depicting cognitive play.

*Please note, that if you take pictures of the children at your practicum placement, you must have signed permission, from the child's parent to use their picture. This MUST be submitted with your assignment. If it is not, a '0' will be given.

Observation 30%

November 26

Students will choose **one child** to observe in one of your practicum sites OR in the Children's Centre Demonstration Preschool Program. If you are not registered in CD 1045, you will have to make arrangements to observe a child in the Children's Centre. **You may not complete these observations on your own child.**

Part A

Using the information you have gained in class and the various handouts about observing and recording children's behavior as resources, complete two 20- minute observations of the child at play. One of your observations should be recorded using a **running record** format and the other as an **anecdotal record**. For confidentiality, use the child's initials or a pseudonym rather than the child's real name.

Part B

After you have completed both observations and written them up, write a summary about what you currently know about this child based on your two observations, using the following questions as a guide:

What did you learn about this child? Remember to base this summary only on the information you obtained from your observations. Did you learn anything about the child? For example, does the child seem to prefer playing alone or with one or two others? Are most of the child's interactions with adults or other children? Does the child involve him/herself in a quiet activity or participate in more active behavior? Does the child move from center to center of focus he/her attention of one or two? What does this information tell you about the child's attention span? Does the child use a lot of language in his/her play or is he/she quiet? What is the child able to do? Run, jump, skip, glue, draw with detail, build with blocks, ask for help from the teacher or other children, talk with other children? Is the child able to solve problems that arise? Does the child lead the play, or follow the lead of others. Is he/she able to share toys and materials and take turns? What does the child appear to be interested in? Is there a certain aspect of the activity/materials that the child is interested in?

Any information about the child that you include in this summary should be supported by the information from you observation.

Part C

What further questions do you have about this child's interests, behavior or development that you do not know from completing these two observations? How could you collect his information?

Based on the child's interest, what are two ways in which you could support or facilitate this interest?

Quiz

25%

December 12th

Study questions will be provided for this quiz. It will not be open book. Regular attendance is strongly recommended.

Attendance/in class assignments 15%

A variety of in class activities will be marked; these will include application exercises, reflection exercises, short quizzes and group activities. If you are absent from class you will not have the opportunity to complete the work.

Additionally, you will be expected to check into moodle on a weekly basis and complete any assignments/readings posted.

If a student misses more than 20% of scheduled classes, a grade of '0' will be assigned.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

DATE	TOPIC	IMPORTANT DATES
Sept. 5 (R)	Introductions Overview of course	
Sept 10 (T)	Play: Definition	
Sept. 12 (R)	Play: Definition	
Sept.17 (T)	Play: Characteristics	
Sept. 19 (R)	Play: Characteristics	
Sept. 24 (T)	Play: Role of Play and DAP	
Sept. 26 (W)	Play: Role of Play and DAP	
Oct. 1 (T)	Types of Play	
Oct. 3 (R)	Types of Play	
Oct. 8 (T)	Types of Play, Repetitive Play	
Oct. 10 (R)	Opportunity for Observation in CC/No class*	
Oct. 15 (T)	Opportunity for Observation in CC/No class*	
Oct. 17 (R)	Observation and Documentation	
Oct. 22 (T)	The Observation Process	
Oct. 24 (R)	Factors that Influence Observation	PLAY ASSIGNMENT
Oct. 29 (T)	Observation Methods	
Oct. 31(R)	Observation Methods	

***There will be no class on Thursday, October 10th or Tuesday October 15th. Opportunity will be given to observe children in the Children's Centre Demonstration Preschool Program if students are choosing to complete the assignment on play in partners. A sign up sheet will be posted on my door. Of course, time outside of these 2 dates is available for the observation by appointment. Please note that you would be able to observe from 2:30 - 3:30 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.**

Nov. 5 (T)	Observation Methods	
Nov. 7 (R)	The Use of Portfolios in Early Childhood Facilitating, Supporting and Extending Children's Play	
Nov. 12(T)	Fall Break	
Nov. 14 (R)	High Quality Play, When to Intervene	
Nov. 19 (T)	Language to Support Play, Roles	
Nov. 21 (R)	Adult's Role in Block Play Adult's Role in Pretend Play Adult's Role in Play with Natural Materials	
Nov. 26 (T)	Societal Issues	OBSERVATION ASSIGNMENT
Nov. 28 (R)	Societal Issues	
Dec. 3 (T)	Rough and Tumble Play	
Dec. 5 (R)	Superhero Play	
Dec. 10(T)	Catch up/Review	
Dec. 12 (R)	Quiz	QUIZ