



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
COURSE OUTLINE - FALL 2015  
CD 1330 UNDERSTANDING CHILDREN'S PLAY

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

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

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**OFFICE HOURS:** Mondays 11:30 - 12:30, Tuesdays and Thursdays: 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 (3-0-0) 45 hours**

**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.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES/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:**

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

**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 October 29<sup>th</sup>.

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

## EVALUATIONS (How do you get marks):

Readings/questions*	15%
Mini assignments*	15%
(Is this play? What are they learning?, Learning Story, Adult Role)	
Play Assignment	20%
Observation	25%
Quiz	25%

Study questions will be provided for this quiz. Regular attendance is strongly recommended.

\*Some class time will be provided to work on assigned readings/questions and mini assignments. Regular attendance is crucial for student success, if you are absent from class you will not have the opportunity to complete the mini assignment. If you miss more than 20% of scheduled classes you will receive a '0' for your mini assignments.

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

**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 Admissions Guide at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or [www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/](http://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/)

**STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:** Refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Admission Guide at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at [www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/\\*\\*](http://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/**)

## COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

*Please see attached for course schedule (note, the schedule is tentative and subject to revision).*

## **Play Assignment**

20%

### Overview

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

*You will observe 4 different play episodes. The play episodes may be of individual children or children playing in a group. You will take pictures of the play episode and notes as to what the children said/did.*

### **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) 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.

*To be submitted electronically.*

## **Observation            25%**

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?