



The University of Southern Queensland

## Course specification

<b>Description: Exploring Science and Technology in Early Childhood</b>						
Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
ECE	2017	41277	1, 2005	ONC	1.00	Toowoomba

<b>Academic group:</b>	FOEDU
<b>Academic org:</b>	FOE004
<b>Student contribution band:</b>	National Priority Teaching
<b>ASCED code:</b>	070101

### STAFFING

Examiner: Jason Locke  
Moderator: Noel Geoghegan

### REQUISITES

Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: BEPR or BEEC or BESM or BESC or BEPG or BEPH or BPMH or BSMG or BECS or BECH or BEEG or BEEH or BPMU.

### OTHER-REQUISITES

Pre-requisite: Students may only enrol in external mode if they are enrolled in an external program.

### RATIONALE

Fleer and Hardy (1996) suggest that children's early experiences with science-related concepts and materials are vital for the development of values and attitudes in science and technology. Early science learning and exploration covers the areas of cognitive, conative and affective development. Therefore, educators and parents play an important part as role models by supporting and guiding the development of positive attitudes in the early years and creating imaginative and challenging environments for learning. With increasing technology and availability of information it is also essential for early childhood educators to have the necessary skills to make appropriate choices and informed decisions to develop children's thinking skills and abilities.

### SYNOPSIS

This course will examine the importance of developing children's creativity, curiosity, problem solving skills and sense of wonder and appreciation of the environment, in the exploration of science and technology. The course will focus on different approaches to teaching science and the development of positive attitudes for life long learning while taking into account children's cultural and diverse backgrounds. It aims to develop student's creativity, problem solving and analytical skills and their passion for science and technology. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Working

with Children: State law in Queensland requires that all adults (including university students, pre-service educators, trainers, vocational teachers, industry educators) working with children under the age of 18, in the State of Queensland\*, obtain approval before commencing such work. Many education courses include a practical component (professional experience, project work, research, assessment etc.) that may require engagement with children under the age of 18. It is your responsibility to ensure that you possess a current suitability card (Blue Card) before commencing any practical components of this course. **DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18 UNLESS YOU POSSESS A CURRENT 'BLUE CARD'**. For further information: <http://www.childcomm.qld.gov.au/employment/bluecard/informationSheets.html> \*If you are undertaking practical experience outside the State of Queensland, Australia you should check local requirements.

## OBJECTIVES

On completion of this course students will be able to:

1. demonstrate creative and problem-solving skills in their approach to science and technology;
2. discuss the value of hands-on experiences for children in science activities;
3. explain a number of approaches to teaching science;
4. demonstrate how to listen effectively and respond to children's questions;
5. demonstrate essential questioning techniques to further extend children's knowledge of science and technology;
6. select, organise and present suitable materials for science experiences for young children;
7. demonstrate the ability to develop children's appreciation of the natural environment;
8. demonstrate some knowledge of science content and an ability to effectively access such knowledge through a variety of sources including web-based materials;
9. develop an enthusiastic scientific attitude and an understanding of developing positive attitudes in young children;
10. analyse curriculum documents and appropriate assessment methods;
11. discuss the importance and impact of culture, values and diversity;
12. use written communication effectively and appropriately;
13. write clearly, grammatically correctly and with accurate spelling and punctuation;
14. use written communication effectively and appropriately;
15. write clearly, grammatically correctly and with accurate spelling and punctuation.

## TOPICS

	Description	Weighting (%)
1.	Learning and teaching styles	5.00
2.	Creative problem solving	15.00
3.	Listening and responding to young children's questions and effective questioning	10.00
4.	Approaches to teaching science in ECE	15.00
5.	Environmental science in early childhood - teaching appreciation and developing a sense of wonder	10.00
6.	Technology in early childhood	15.00
7.	Cultural and diverse backgrounds	5.00

8.	Using web-based materials	10.00
9.	Curriculum documents and other resources	5.00
10.	Using resources - community and parents	10.00

### **TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED**

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at <http://bookshop.usq.edu.au> click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

#### Book of readings

Australian Early Childhood Association 2004, Every child, *Science, innovation and investigation*, Watson, ACT, Vol 10, no.4.

### **REFERENCE MATERIALS**

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

1998, , *Every child*, Vol 4, no.4.

(Special Edition - Environment Australia Summer 1998)

De Vries, R et al 2002, *Developing constructivist early childhood curriculum: practical principles and activities*, Teachers College Press, New York.

Fleer, M 2001, *I want to know...?: learning about science*, Australian Early Childhood Association, Watson, ACT.

Fleer, M & Hardy, T 2001, *Science for children: developing a personal approach to teaching*, 2nd edn, Prentice Hall, Sydney.

Fleer, M & Hardy, T 2001, *Science for children: developing a personal approach to teaching*, 2nd edn, Pearson Education Australia, Frenchs Forest, NSW.

Fleer, M & Jane, B 1999, *Technology for children*, 2nd edn, Prentice Hall, Sydney.

Harlan, J & Rivkin, M 2000, *Science experiences for the early childhood years: an integrated approach*, 7th edn, Prentice Hall, USA.

Johnstone, J & Gray, A 1999, *Enriching early scientific learning*, Open University Press, Buckingham.

Worth, K & Grollman, S 2003, *Worms, shadows and whirlpools: science in the early childhood classroom*, Heinemann, Portsmouth, NH.

Young, T & Ellitott, S 2003, *Just investigate: science and technology experiences for young children*, Tertiary Press, Croyden, VIC.

## STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Assignments	50.00
Directed Study	25.00
Lectures	13.00
Online Discussion Groups	10.00
Private Study	40.00
Tutorials	26.00

## ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg(%)	Due date
ASSIGNMENT 1	15.00	50.00	16 May 2005
ASSIGNMENT 2	15.00	50.00	10 Jun 2005

## IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:  
It is the students' responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities (such as lectures, tutorials, laboratories and practical work) scheduled for them, and to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration. Students should demonstrate a professional attitude and commitment by attendance at and participation in at least 80% of scheduled classes. Students should demonstrate a professional attitude and commitment by attendance at and participation in at least 80% of scheduled classes.
- 2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:  
To complete each of the assignments satisfactorily, students must obtain at least at least 50% of the marks available for each assignment. To complete each of the assessment items satisfactorily, students must demonstrate their ability to write clearly, grammatically correctly and with accurate spelling and punctuation.
- 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:  
If students submit an assignment after the due date without prior approval then a penalty of 10% of the total marks available for the assignment will apply for each working day late.
- 4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:  
To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must submit all assessment items and achieve at least 50% of the available marks for overall summative assessment.
- 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:  
The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate of the marks (or grades) obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.
- 6 Examination information:  
There is no examination in this course.
- 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:

There will be no Deferred or Supplementary examinations in this course.

8 University Regulations:

Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL <http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm> or in the current USQ Handbook.

## **ASSESSMENT NOTES**

- 1 Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within 24 hours if required by the Examiner. (c) The examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances. (e) The Faculty will NOT accept submission of assignments by facsimile.

## **OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

- 1 **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Working with Children: State law in Queensland requires that all adults (including university students, pre-service educators, trainers, vocational teachers, industry educators) working with children under the age of 18, in the State of Queensland\*, obtain approval before commencing such work. Many education courses include a practical component (professional experience, project work, research, assessment etc.) that may require engagement with children under the age of 18. It is your responsibility to ensure that you possess a current suitability card (Blue Card) before commencing any practical components of this course. **DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18 UNLESS YOU POSSESS A CURRENT 'BLUE CARD'**. For further information: <http://www.childcomm.qld.gov.au/employment/bluecard/informationSheets.html> \*If you are undertaking practical experience outside the State of Queensland, Australia you should check local requirements.
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