



The University of Southern Queensland

## Course specification

| <b>Description: Play-based Pedagogies in Early Childhood</b> |         |       |         |      |       |           |
|--|---------|-------|---------|------|-------|-----------|
| Subject  | Cat-nbr | Class | Term    | Mode | Units | Campus    |
| ECE  | 3103    | 55113 | 2, 2006 | 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: Lindy Austin  
Moderator: Deborah Geoghegan

### REQUISITES

Pre-requisite: ECP1001 and ECP1002 and ECE2010

### RATIONALE

Contemporary discussion of integrative educational goals and practice recognises the integration of knowledge and experience in child-initiated learning. An increasing number of early childhood professionals and researchers are advocating for an integrated curriculum approach in the early childhood classroom. Recent conceptions of the 'integrated curriculum' encompass views that children derive multiple benefits from socially mediated learning; from engaging in play, problem-solving and projects that are contextualised in personally meaningful endeavours. It acknowledges that children have multiple pathways for learning, and that this learning occurs through a range of symbolic languages (verbal, written, graphic, musical and dramatic forms).

### SYNOPSIS

Play resides as a central theme within the course, and students examine the role of play as integrative in the curriculum. To this end, they are engaged in exploring children's thinking and communication, to develop-in-depth skills in the documentation, and interpretation of play. Further to this, students explore how children's play can be scaffolded and evaluated within a play-based, integrated curriculum. Models of curriculum are explored, particularly as they apply to the teaching of children aged 4 to 6 years. Students examine a range of curriculum traditions, and compare them to recent constructions of early childhood curriculum. In particular, the nature of the 'integrated curriculum' is examined, both theoretically, and in its practical applications, both in Australia and internationally. **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 an understanding of children's thinking and communication as it is expressed through play
2. demonstrate an understanding of the role of play as integrative in the curriculum
3. document and interpret children's play
4. describe how children's play can be scaffolded and evaluated
5. plan an integrated, play based early childhood program
6. demonstrate an understanding of traditional approaches to curriculum in early childhood
7. demonstrate an understanding of recent constructions of early childhood curriculum
8. describe the nature of the 'integrated curriculum', and the theoretical foundations of integrated curriculum approaches
9. demonstrate an understanding of the multiple symbolic forms of representation in young children.

## **TOPICS**

|     | Description  | Weighting (%) |
|-----|--|---------------|
| 1.  | Play and thinking  | 10.00         |
| 2.  | Play as an integrative device  | 5.00          |
| 3.  | Dramatic play and drama  | 10.00         |
| 4.  | Documentation and interpretation of children's play                    | 10.00         |
| 5.  | Scaffolding and evaluating play  | 10.00         |
| 6.  | Designing an integrated, play-based early childhood program            | 20.00         |
| 7.  | Traditional approaches to curriculum                                   | 5.00          |
| 8.  | Contemporary approaches to curriculum                                  | 5.00          |
| 9.  | Integrated curriculum, theory and practice                             | 20.00         |
| 10. | Multiple intelligence theory and its application in classroom practice | 5.00          |

## **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).

Dockett, S & Fler, M 1999, *Play and pedagogy in early childhood: bending the rules*, 1st edn, Harcourt Brace, Sydney.

Theobald, M & Houen, S 1999, *Monitoring children's progress using child portfolios*, Theobald & Houen, Shailer Park, Qld.

## 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.

Abbott, L & Rodger, R 1994, *Quality Education in the Early Years*, Open University Press, Buckingham.

Berk, LE & Winsler, A 1995, *Scaffolding children's learning: Vygotsky and early childhood education*, NAEYC, Washington, DC.

Bodrova, E & Leong, DJ 1996, *Tools of the mind: the Vygotskian approach to early childhood education*, Merrill, Englewood Cliffs, NJ.

Dau, E 1999, *Child's play: revisiting play in early childhood settings*, MacLennan & Petty, Rosebury, NSW.

Kolbe, U 2001, *Rapunzel's supermarket*, Peppinot Press, Paddington, NSW.

MacNaughton, G & Williams, G 2004, *Techniques for teaching young children*, 3rd edn, Pearson Education Australia, Frenchs Forest, NSW.

Moyles, J (ed) 1994, *The excellence of play*, Open University Press, Buckingham.

Seefeldt, C (ed) 1999, *The early childhood curriculum: current findings in theory and practice*, Teachers College Press, New York.

## STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

| ACTIVITY       | HOURS |
|----------------|-------|
| Directed Study | 90.00 |
| Lectures       | 24.00 |
| Private Study  | 30.00 |
| Tutorials      | 12.00 |

## ASSESSMENT DETAILS

| Description        | Marks out of | Wtg(%) | Due date    |
|--------------------|--------------|--------|-------------|
| ESSAY              | 100.00       | 40.00  | 01 Sep 2006 |
| CURRICULUM PROJECT | 100.00       | 60.00  | 03 Nov 2006 |

## 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 must complete 100 days of Professional Experience as partial fulfilment of the Board of Teacher Registration/Department of Families requirements for registration. To ensure that students can satisfy the objectives of the Professional Experience component of the course, attendance and active participation in lectures and tutorials in this course prior to undertaking Professional Experience is highly recommended.

- 2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:  
To complete each of the assessment items satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available for each assessment item.
- 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:  
If assignments are submitted after the due date without an approved extension of time, University penalties may be applied.
- 4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:  
To be assured of a passing grade, students must demonstrate that they have achieved the minimum standards in relation to the objectives of the course by obtaining at least 50% of the total weighted marks available for all summative assessment items.
- 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 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 The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the examiner.
- 2 Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of request being made by the examiner. The student must retain this copy until the grade for this course has been finalised.
- 3 In accordance with the University's assignment extension policy (Regulation 5.6.1), the examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances.
- 4 The Faculty will normally only accept assessments that have been written, typed or printed on paper-based media. The Faculty will NOT accept submission of assignments by facsimile. Students who do not have regular access to postal services or who are otherwise disadvantaged by these regulations may be given special consideration. They should contact the examiner of the course to negotiate such special arrangements.
- 5 Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in a course but who have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of a course within the normally prescribed

time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete - Make up). An IM grade will only be awarded when, in the opinion of the examiner, a student will be able to achieve the remaining objectives of the course after a period of non-directed personal study.

- 6 Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or to sit for an examination at the scheduled time may apply to defer an assessment in a course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination); IDM (Incomplete - Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).
- 7 When there is more than one marker for a single item of assessment, the distributed patterns and means for the different markers will be compared and marks adjusted if necessary.
- 8 Marking criteria are provided in course material as mark sheets/guides or as part of assignment specifications.
- 9 All assessment items must be submitted with a pass overall gained.
- 10 Summative assessment items will receive a numerical score. Any ungraded assessment requirement will receive a Pass, Fail or Incomplete.

## **OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

- 1 Students will require access to e-mail and internet access to USQConnect for this course.
  - 2 Students are to use a recognised referencing system as specified by the examiner.
  - 3 Results for this course will not be released until the case studies from your Professional Experience folder has been successfully completed and documentation processed
  - 4 **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:  
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