STAFFING
Examiner: Anne Petriwskyj
Moderator: Lyn Bower

RATIONALE
Since the learning environment in early childhood programs is a core element of curriculum, the organisation and educational purpose of child-responsive environments is foundational knowledge for early childhood educators. They must be conscious of the impact of changes in the immediate human, physical and time environment, and aware of influences in the external sociopolitical and community context. These issues are of particular significance in programs for very young children as atmosphere or climate exerts a marked influence on children's personal comfort, health and safety, responsiveness to experiences and interpersonal behaviour.

SYNOPSIS
Effective learning environments in early childhood education are characterised by flexibility and responsiveness to children and are planned in relation to a range of ecological and educational considerations. At a macro level, a variety of social, economic, political and educational trends impact on policy and regulatory requirements and on family or community expectations. At a micro level, organisation of a learning environment, including not only physical issues but also time and interpersonal issues, is modified regularly in response to the current interests and progress of children and the needs of staff and parents. In this course, learning environment across the age range birth to eight years is explored, then concepts are applied to educate programs for children under 4 years of age.

OBJECTIVES
On successful completion of this course students will be able to:

• recognise social, economic, political, and educational trends that impact on services for early childhood education and care;
• define the roles of physical, time & human environments in early childhood programs;
• outline regulations and curriculum documents as they relate to the learning environment in early childhood settings;
• organise and modify responsive early childhood learning environments;
• relate environmental issues to care programs for children aged birth to 3 years.

TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Ecological systems and their relationship to early childhood services</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Elements of learning environment in early childhood settings</td>
<td>20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Regulation, policy and management of early childhood environments</td>
<td>10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Responsive physical and time environments for children aged birth to 3 years</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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<td>5. Supportive interpersonal environments in programs for ages birth to 3 years</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED:

Books can be ordered by fax or telephone. For costs and further details use the 'Book Search' facility at http://bookshop.usq.edu.au by entering the author or title of the text.


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.


### STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Directed Study</td>
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<td>Private Study</td>
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### ASSESSMENT DETAILS

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>CONTEXT ANALYSIS &amp; ENV DESIGN</td>
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<td>50.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<tr>
<td>INFANT TODDLER PLAN</td>
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<td>50.00</td>
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<td>PRACTICUM INCLUDING FOLDER</td>
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NOTES:

3. Practicum dates and Practicum folder due date will be advised. Students, a value of 1 indicates you have passed the Practicum component. Zero indicates you have not passed the Practicum component.
OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1. When there is more than one marker for a single item of assessment, the distribution patterns and means for the different markers will be compared and marks adjusted if necessary.

2. Marking criteria are provided in course material as mark sheets/guides or as part of assignment specifications.

3. Summative assessment items will be given a numerical score. Ungraded summative assessment will be given either Pass, Fail or Incomplete.

4. Course Grades will be calculated by aggregating the weighted result or numerical score for each summative assessment item.

5. All assessment items must be submitted and passed.

6. If assignments are submitted after the due date without an approved extension of time, University penalties will apply.

7. Results for this course will not be released until associated professional experience including practicum folder has been successfully completed and documentation processed.

8. Level 1 practicum course should usually be completed before or at the same time as this course.

9. All day mode students must ensure they have Program Coordinator's approval if seeking to enrol in external mode.