Description: Child Studies I

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<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-Nbr</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<td>20735</td>
<td>1, 2003</td>
<td>EXT</td>
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Academic Group: FOEDU
Academic Org: FOE004
HECS Band: 1
ASCED Code: 070101

STAFFING
Examiner: Di Small
Moderator: Anne Petriwskyj

RATIONALE
Early childhood educators need to become astute observers (researchers) in order to understand the individual characters and developmental levels of each child. The information gained through skilful observation, recording and analysis form the basis for planning for the future strengths and abilities of each child, the setting of realistic goals and the implementation of appropriate practise.

SYNOPSIS
This course will be a guide to observing (researching) and recording the behaviour of young children in many different settings. It focuses on how children develop and learn and gives clear explanations of how to observe and what to observe when working with young children. This course introduces students to many different observational techniques and also covers such topics as ethics and objectivity. Observation techniques as they relate to developmental theories are also explored.

OBJECTIVES
On successful completion of this course students will be able to:
- be familiar with developmental theories and how they relate to observation techniques.
- demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the ethics and guidelines for observing children.
- interpret and use methods of observation and recording.
- clearly demonstrate their ability to observe babies, toddlers and preschool children and children in lower primary settings.
TOPICS

Description Weighting (%)  
1. Overview of Developmental Theories 10.00  
2. Guidelines for and ethics of observing children (researching) 10.00  
3. Methods, plans and contexts of observation 15.00  
4. Introduction to observation and recording methods: - Anecdotal record - Checklist - Diary description - Event sampling - Frequency counts - Specimen record - Time sampling 25.00  
5. Application and recording methods in action 20.00  
6. Interpretation of observations, implementation of findings and evaluation. 20.00  

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.


Veale, A. & Piscitelli, B 1990, Observation and Record Keeping in Early Childhood Programs, AECA, Canberra.

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Directed Study</td>
<td>90</td>
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<td>Private Study</td>
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**ASSESSMENT DETAILS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks Out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>OBSERVATION REPORT</td>
<td>40.00</td>
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<td>60.00</td>
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**OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

1. Summative assessment items will be given a numerical score.
2. Course Grades will be calculated by aggregating the weighted result or numerical score for each summative assessment item.
3. All assessment items must be submitted and passed overall.
4. If assignments are submitted after the due date without an approved extension of time, University penalties may be applied.