



College of Education and Human Development

Early Childhood Education Program  
4400 University Drive, MS 4C2, Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
Phone: 703-993-3844; Fax: 703-993-4370; email: [earlyed@gmu.edu](mailto:earlyed@gmu.edu)  
<https://gse.gmu.edu/programs/earlychildhood/>

**ECED 503.001 Inclusive Curriculum for Young Learners:  
Planning Instruction and Guidance (3:3:0)  
Fall 2013  
Mondays, 7:20 – 10:00 pm  
West 1001**

**Instructor: Mona M Assaf, PhD**  
**Email address: [massaf@gmu.edu](mailto:massaf@gmu.edu)**  
**Telephone:**  
**Office hours: By Appointment Only**

**Course Description**

Explores principles of learning, curriculum development, and relationship between assessment and instruction. Examines role of play and active exploration in learning. Addresses guiding children's behavior and the role of families and culture in children's learning

**Note:** Field experience required

**Nature of Course Delivery**

This course utilizes a distributed learning format requiring active participation of all students. Students are expected to complete all class readings prior to each session so as to engage in active dialogue, productive learning, and critical reflection. Activities will include instructor presentation, small-group discussions, student presentations, videos, and whole class sharing to support course content. In addition, a Blackboard online component of coursework is required.

**Learner Outcomes**

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Plan meaningful curriculum activities that are responsive to the interests, preferences, motivation, interaction styles, developmental status, learning history, and cultural variables of the child and family.
2. Demonstrate how meaningful curriculum activities link to VA Foundations of Learning Standards for Early Childhood Education.
3. Develop individual and group activity plans and implement strategies to facilitate functional cognitive, social, communication, motor, and adaptive development.
4. Plan and adapt curriculum activities that are respectful of family identified outcomes, preferences, interaction styles, and cultural norms.
5. Develop and reflect on various behavior management strategies for culturally, linguistically, and ability diverse young children and their families.
6. Apply current research on effective developmentally appropriate practices to teaching young children from diverse backgrounds and varying abilities.

7. Analyze and design appropriate environments and materials to include addressing developmentally appropriate practices, anti-bias curriculum, and inclusion settings.
8. Utilize problem-solving strategies to address dilemmas encountered in diverse educational and community settings.
9. Analyze and describe the varied theoretical frameworks guiding early childhood curriculum approaches and practices.
10. Describe how ongoing data collection and management of classroom plans can be used to monitor child progress in the context of daily activities.
11. Analyze one's own teaching practices and set appropriate goals for teaching change.

### **Professional Standards**

This course is aligned with the standards established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC).

### **Required Texts**

- Burns, M. S., Johnson, R., & Assaf, M. (2012). *Preschool education in today's world: Teaching children with diverse backgrounds and abilities*. Baltimore, MD: Brookes.
- Gartrell, D. (2012). *Education for a civil society: How guidance teaches young children democratic life skills*. Washington, DC: NAEYC.
- Hyson, M. (2008). *Enthusiastic and engaged learners: Approaches to learning in the early childhood classroom*. Washington, DC: NAEYC.

### **Selected Readings (on Blackboard)**

- Cowhey, M. (2006). *Black ants and Buddhists: Thinking critically and teaching differently in the primary grades*. Portland, ME: Stenhouse. Chapter 3
- Derman-Sparks, L., & Edwards, J. (2010). *Anti-Bias education for young children and ourselves*. Washington, DC: NAEYC. Chapter 4
- Howes, C., & Ritchie, S. (2002). *A Matter of trust: Connecting teachers and learners in the early childhood classroom*. New York: Teachers College. Chapters 6 & 9

### **Recommended Texts**

- Bredenkamp, S., & Copple, C. (Eds). (2009). *Developmentally appropriate practice in early childhood programs serving children from birth through age 8*. Washington, DC: NAEYC.

### **George Mason University Policies and Resources for Students**

- Academic integrity (honor code, plagiarism) – Students must adhere to guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://oai.gmu.edu/honor-code/>].
- Mason Email – Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, division, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>].

- Counseling and Psychological Services – The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops, and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- Office of Disability Services – Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor in writing at the beginning of the semester <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- The Writing Center (Optional Resource) – The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].
- University Libraries (Optional Resource) – The George Mason University Libraries provide numerous services, research tools, and help with using the library resources [See <http://library.gmu.edu/>].

### **Professional Dispositions**

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

**Core Values Commitment:** The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles.

#### ***Collaboration***

Collaboration is an important human activity that involves shared responsibility in promoting healthy, productive lives, and educational success. We commit ourselves to work toward these goals in genuine partnerships with individuals, families, community agencies, schools, businesses, foundations, and other groups at the local, regional, national, and international levels.

#### ***Ethical Leadership***

In all professions represented by the college, leadership is an essential component denoting ability and willingness to help lead professional practice to higher levels. We commit ourselves to practice ethical leadership through deliberate and systematic attention to the ethical principles that guide all leaders in a moral society.

#### ***Innovation***

We have a history of creating dynamic, innovative programs, and we are dedicated to continue creating innovative approaches in all areas of our work. We commit ourselves to seeking new ways to advance knowledge, solve problems, improve our professional practice, and expand on our successes.

#### ***Research-Based Practice***

The best practice in any discipline is based upon sound research and professional judgment. We commit ourselves to basing our instruction, scholarship, and policy recommendations on well-established principles that, wherever possible, emerge from research and reflection on its implications for professional practice.

### ***Social Justice***

Social justice embodies essential principles of equity and access to all opportunities in society, in accordance with democratic principles and respect for all persons and points of view. We commit ourselves to promoting equity, opportunity, and social justice through the college's operations and its missions related to teaching, research, and service.

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, Graduate School of Education, please visit our website [See <http://gse.gmu.edu/>].

## **Course Requirements**

### **General Requirements**

1. The completion of all readings assigned for the course is assumed. Because the class will be structured around discussion and small group activities, it is imperative that students keep up with the readings and participate in class.
2. Attendance in class and/or online is important to students' learning; therefore, students are expected to make every effort to attend class sessions and/or complete online modules within the designated timeframe. Absences, tardiness, leaving early, and not completing online modules in the designated timeframe may negatively affect course grades. If, due to an emergency, students will not be in class, they must call the instructor and leave a message or send an email before class. The following policy is from the university course catalog:

Students are expected to attend the class periods of the courses for which they register. In-class participation is important not only to the individual student, but also to the class as a whole. Because class participation may be a factor in grading, instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as de facto evidence of nonparticipation. Students who miss an exam with an acceptable excuse may be penalized according to the individual instructor's grading policy, as stated in the course syllabus.
3. In line with Mason's policy that students should not be penalized because of observances of their religious holidays, students shall be given an opportunity to make up, within a reasonable time, any academic assignment that is missed due to individual participation in religious observances. It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of any intended absences for religious observations in advance of the class that will be missed. Notice should be provided in writing as soon as possible.
4. During face-to-face and live online meetings, cell phones, pagers, and other communicative devices are not allowed in this class. Students must keep them stowed away and out of sight. Laptops or tablets (e.g., iPads) may be permitted for the purpose of taking notes only. Engaging in activities not related to the course (e.g. gaming, email, chat, etc.) will result in a significant deduction in their participation grade.
5. It is expected that assignments will be turned in on time. However, it is recognized that students occasionally have serious problems that prevent work completion. If such a dilemma arises, students should speak to the instructor prior to the assignment due date (when possible). If the student does not communicate with the instructor, a late penalty will be applied.

6. Mason is an Honor Code university; please see the Office for Academic Integrity for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when responsible for a task, students will perform that task. When students rely on someone else's work in an aspect of the performance of that task, they will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind), students will ask for guidance and clarification.

### Written Assignments

All formal written assignments will be evaluated for content and presentation. The American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition (APA) style will be followed for all written work. All written work unless otherwise noted must be completed on a word processor and should be proofread carefully. (Use spell check!) If students are not confident of their own ability to catch errors, they should have another person proofread their work. When in doubt, they should check the APA manual. Portions of the APA manual appear at the Style Manuals link on the Mason library web guide at <http://library.gmu.edu/resources/edu/>. Students may consult the Writing Center for additional writing support.

Students will do the following:

1. Present ideas in a clear, concise, and organized manner. (Avoid wordiness and redundancy.)
2. Develop points coherently, definitively, and thoroughly.
3. Refer to appropriate authorities, studies, and examples to document where appropriate. (Avoid meaningless generalizations, unwarranted assumptions, and unsupported opinions.)
4. Use correct capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and grammar.

### Grading Criteria

A = 95 – 100

A- = 90 – 94

B+ = 87 – 89

B = 83 – 86

B- = 80 – 82

C = 70 – 79

F = < 70

### Grading Policy

All CEHD undergraduate and graduate students are held to the university grading policies as described in the Academic Policies section of the current catalog, which can be accessed at <http://catalog.gmu.edu>. Those students enrolled in a CEHD Licensure Graduate Certificate program, however, must earn a B- or better in all licensure coursework. A degree-seeking graduate student will be dismissed after accumulating grades of F in two courses or 9 credits of unsatisfactory grades (C or F) in graduate courses. A 3.0 grade point average is required for completion of the graduate degree.

### Submission of Performance-Based Assessment

Every student registered for any Early Childhood Education course with a required performance-based assessment is required to submit this assessment, NCATE Assessment 3 Instructional Planning Analysis, to TaskStream (regardless of whether a course is an elective, a onetime course or part of an undergraduate minor). Evaluation of the performance-based assessment by

the course instructor will also be completed in TaskStream. Failure to submit the assessment to TaskStream will result in a the course instructor reporting the course grade as Incomplete(IN). Unless this grade is changed upon completion of the required TaskStream submission, the IN will convert to an F nine weeks into the following semester.

### Specific Course Assignments

Assignments	Due Dates	Points
Attendance & Participation	Ongoing	15
Curriculum Content Area: Exploration and Resources	As Assigned	35
Instructional Planning Analysis	Dec 14	50
TOTAL		100

#### Attendance and Participation (Ongoing): 15 points

Because active participation and engagement are imperative for optimal learning, preparation for and participation in in-class activities will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Students attend class, arrive on time, and stay for the entire class period.
- Students complete readings and prepare for class activities prior to class as is evidenced by their ability to discuss and write about the concepts presented and examined in the texts as well as participate fully in related activities.
- Students are actively involved in in-class and online learning experiences as is evidenced by (1) participating in all activities, (2) engaging in small and large group discussions, (3) using laptops and other electronic devices only to support discussion and learning and not for non-academic uses during class time, (4) completing written work related to the activities, and (5) supporting the participation and learning of classmates.
- Students show evidence of critical reflective thinking through in-class and online discussions, activities, and written reflections.

**Note:** To determine whether the campus is closed due to inclement weather, call 703-993-1000 or go to [www.gmu.edu](http://www.gmu.edu).

#### Curriculum Content Area: Exploration and Resources (Due dates: As Assigned): 35 Points

Students will select and research curriculum content areas and resources to share with classmates. Each group will prepare an interactive/play/center-based presentation to help communicate the importance of this curriculum content area, the key outcomes for children from culturally, linguistically, and ability diverse backgrounds and their families connected to this area, and examples of activities that would support learning in this area. It is important to consider the student ability levels and developmental and cultural appropriateness for preschool-aged children, especially children with special needs. The in-class presentation should include an interactive activity to enable classmates to explore the curriculum content area.

The handout for this project should include the following:

- A brief statement of the significance of this area and the associated learning outcomes for children from culturally, linguistically, and ability diverse backgrounds;
- An annotated list of at least five key resources that contribute to understanding this area; and
- An annotated list of activity resources that could be used when implementing developmentally and culturally appropriate curriculum or provided to families to support this area of learning.
- Annotations must be written in student's words, providing a brief description of the source, the strengths of the resource as well as concerns about the resource.
  - The topics will include the following: 1) science; 2) creative arts (fine art, drama, dance); 3) story telling and language; 4) social studies; 5) math; 6) physical/large motor activity/movement; 7) literacy; or 8) music. Each presentation is to be 15 minutes maximum.

### **Instructional Planning Analysis (Due date: December 14 @ 5:00 pm): 50 Points**

This is the NCATE 3 Assessment of Ability to Plan Instruction that shows evidence of meeting CEC and NAEYC Standards. This assignment must be submitted on TaskStream. See the assessment description and scoring rubric attached.

Part 1: Early Childhood Learning Environment—Due 10/28

Part 2: Child Interests—Due 10/28

Part 3: Lesson Plans-Include: Standards, Developmental Domains, Child interests, Assessment, Families/Culture—Due 12/14

Part 4: Behavior Management Practices—Due 12/14

### **Course Schedule and Topics**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings &amp; Assignments Due</b>
8/26	What is curriculum? Play and learning Introductions/Group selections/Syllabus Review	Review course syllabus Familiarize class texts
9/2	Labor Day No Class	
9/16	Reflective practitioner Becoming an Early Childhood Teacher	<b>Readings:</b> Cowhey Chapter 1 Burns Chapter 1 Gatrell Chapter 5  <b>BRING to class:</b> List of qualities teachers should have and why
9/23	Classroom Environment	<b>Readings:</b>

Date	Topics	Readings & Assignments Due
	Learning Centers Inclusive Practices Culture—CLAD Who are the children and families? Role of families and communities in informing curriculum	Burns Chapter 2 & pages 65-67 Gartrell Chapter 6 Hyson Chapter 9  <b>BRING to class:</b> Class Profile
9/30	Investigating curriculum designs and integration across content Planning formats Reflecting child-interest and standards	<b>Readings:</b> Burns pages 71-81 Gartrell Chapter 7  <b>BRING to class:</b> Class Schedules, Planning Formats, Standards
10/7	Assessment Curriculum development Inclusive practices and modifications Individualization Guidance toward an encouraging classroom Curriculum planning, integrated curriculum, developmentally appropriate practice Approaches to Learning	<b>Readings:</b> Burns Chapter 5 Gartrell Chapter 7 & 10 Hyson Chapter 1, 2, & 8  <b>BRING to class:</b> Sketch of early childhood classroom
10/14	Columbus Day Holiday	
10/15— TUESDAY Class	<b>Presentation:</b> Social Emotional Content Area	<b>Readings:</b> Burns Chapter 6 Gartrell Chapter 4  <b>Presentation:</b> Social Emotional Content Area
10/21	Developmentally appropriate practices Teacher-student interactions  <b>Presentation:</b> Science Content Area	<b>Readings:</b> NAEYC Journal November 2009  <b>Presentation:</b> Science Content Area
10/28	Learning Environment Presentations Schedule Plan/design/refine	<b>Readings:</b> Derman-Sparks



Date	Topics	Readings & Assignments Due
	Anti-bias education approach/cultural identities/coalition building/advocacy/social justice	<b>DUE:</b> Early Childhood Learning Environment & Child/Family Interests
11/4	<b>Presentation:</b> Literacy/Story-Telling/Language Development Content Area	<b>Readings:</b> Burns Chapter 8  <b>Presentation:</b> Literacy Content Area
11/11	<b>Presentation:</b> Performing Arts Content Area	<b>Readings:</b> NAEYC Journal March 2010  <b>Presentation:</b> Performing Arts Content Area
11/18	Curriculum planning, integrated curriculum, developmentally appropriate practice  <b>Presentation:</b> Social Studies Content Area	<b>Readings:</b> Will be provided  <b>Presentation:</b> Social Studies Content Area
11/25	<b>Presentation:</b> Physical/large motor activity/movement Content Area	<b>Readings:</b> Burns Chapter 9  <b>Presentation:</b> Physical/large motor activity/ movement Content Area
12/2	<b>Presentation:</b> Math Content Area	<b>Readings:</b> Selected readings from Junita Copley  <b>Presentation:</b> Math Content Area
12/9	Presentation of Instructional Planning Project Wrap up	
12/14		<b>DUE at 5:00 pm Instructional Planning Analysis MUST Upload final assignment to Taskstream</b>

## **Early Childhood Education NCATE Assessment 3 Ability to Plan Instruction**

### ***Instructional Planning Analysis***

Early Childhood Education PK-3 NCATE Assessment 3 is Environment and Curriculum Analysis in ECED 403/503 Inclusive Curriculum for Young Learners: Planning Instruction and Guidance. This assessment shows evidence of meeting NAEYC Standard Elements 4a and 4b.

#### **Assessment Overview**

In this assessment, candidates will document knowledge of instructional strategies and planning through an intensive investigation of the connections between environment and curriculum in relation to individual student learning. They will illustrate their understanding of developmentally effective approaches to connect with children through the environment and curriculum. Candidates will use knowledge of individual learning differences to develop long-range instructional plans and shorter-range goals and objectives as well as instructional strategies to individualize instruction for children with exceptional learning needs within the context of their general curriculum and environment. Candidates will do the following:

- Provide a rich, detailed description of a classroom.
- Describe links between classroom environment and curriculum.
- Describe the environment from the perspective of a child in the classroom.
- Develop a plan to improve environment.
- Analyze interactions during a child-initiated activity.
- Develop an individual plan, within the context of the general environment and curriculum, that includes materials, organizational structures, interaction strategies, and technology resources, to meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of the identified child.

#### **NAEYC Standards Assessed**

*NAEYC 4a. Understanding positive relationships and supportive interactions as the foundations of their work with children*

*NAEYC 4b. Knowing and understanding effective strategies and tools for early education*

## Assessment Procedures

Candidates will investigate the classroom environment from multiple perspectives and prepare a paper that integrates analyses of the environment and interactions during a child-initiated activity with a long-range individualized instructional plan that includes shorter-range goals and objectives and identifies instructional strategies and changes needed in the environment to support a child's learning outcomes.

### **Step One: Prepare a written analysis of the classroom environment.** *(NAEYC 4a)*

Candidates will provide a written analysis of the classroom environment and recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the environment to meet the learning needs of all children. They will write a paper that provides an in-depth analysis of their classroom environment. Candidates will do the following:

- a. Describe and analyze the general environment from the teacher's point of view to include the affective environment, the social environment, the physical environment, and the temporal environment.
- a. Describe and analyze the environment from the classroom children's point of view: What messages are conveyed to children? What works well for children? What is difficult for children? How does this point of view differ from the teachers' point of view?
- b. Describe and analyze ways in which the environment promotes active engagement; encourages independence; and values all children with diverse abilities, culture, or language.
- c. Discuss the accessibility of the environment. How does the environment support children with exceptional learning needs?
- d. Illustrate the effect of the environment on interactions between students as well as between teachers, students, families, including families from diverse backgrounds, and specialists.
- e. Discuss and analyze the classroom environment from the family perspective and how the environment welcomes and includes families from diverse backgrounds.

### **Step Two: Interact with a child with a developmental or learning difference and record a conversation with the child during a child-initiated activity within the general environment.** *(NAEYC 4a)*

Candidates will integrate their understanding of positive and supportive relationships with children in a written analysis as they do the following:

- a. Review the taped conversation and describe and analyze ways in which the child demonstrates engagement with the classroom community of learners;
- b. Describe strategies used with the child to encourage responsiveness to open-ended questions and participation in feedback loops with the teacher; and
- c. Describe strategies used to encourage personal connections with the child.

**Step Three: Prepare an instructional plan for the same identified child in Step Two and based on an understanding of the child as well as an analysis of environment. (NAEYC 4a, 4b)**

Candidates will develop an individualized plan for a child with developmental or learning differences within the context of general environment and curriculum that includes the following:

- a. A description of the individual child that includes his or her age and developmental skill level and learning differences
- b. At least two measurable annual goals and two shorter-range objectives for each annual goal
- c. Descriptions of at least four instructional strategies that reflect the child's language, culture, and family background and address the goals and objectives and include the following:
  - i. Plans for implementation
  - ii. Changes to enhance the environment to support achievement of short-range objectives and long-term goals (Changes may include access to include use of materials, organizational structure modifications, specific interaction strategies, and appropriate technology resources.)
  - iii. Specific adaptations or accommodations, including the use of appropriate technology
- d. Candidates will respond to the following questions:
  - i. How does your analysis of your classroom environment and recommendations for change support individual learning needs and goals for this child?
  - ii. What is the impact of changes and modifications suggested for an individual child on other children and the environment as a whole?
  - iii. How will you evaluate success?

ECE PROGRAM OUTCOME STANDARDS (Aligned With State and NAEYC Standards)	Assessment Measure Descriptions			
	Exceeds Criteria	Meets Criteria	Partially Meets Criteria	No Evidence
<b>Early Childhood Education NCATE ASSESSMENT 3 Ability to Plan Instruction Environment and Curriculum Analysis ECED 403/503 Inclusive Curriculum for Young Learners: Planning Instruction and Guidance</b>				
NAEYC 4a Understanding positive relationships and supportive interactions as the foundations of their work with children	Analyzed current environment and identified more than three ways it promotes active engagement, values diversity, encourages independence, and promotes and supports positive relationships with children AND Analyzed interactions during a child- initiated activity and described more than three strategies used to promote positive relationships and support interactions	Analyzed current environment and identified three ways it promotes active engagement, values diversity, encourages independence, and promotes and supports positive relationships with children AND Analyzed interactions during a child-initiated activity and described three strategies used to promote positive relationships and support interactions	Analyzed current environment and identified fewer than three ways it promotes active engagement, values diversity, encourages independence, and/or promotes and supports positive relationships with children AND/OR Analyzed interactions during a child-initiated activity and described fewer than three strategies used to promote positive relationships and support interactions	Did not analyze current environment and interactions during a child- initiated activity

<p>NAEYC 4b Knowing and understanding effective strategies and tools for early education</p>	<p>Developed an individualized plan for a child that included the following:  more than two long-term goals and more than two short-term goals for each long-term goal  AND  descriptions of more than four instructional strategies that reflect the child's language, culture, and family background and address the goals and objectives  AND  descriptions of more than two ways to improve the environment to promote active engagement, support individual learning goals, and promote a challenging learning environment</p>	<p>Developed an individualized plan for a child that included the following:  two long-term goals and two short-term goals for each long-term goal  AND  descriptions of four instructional strategies that reflect the child's language, culture, and family background and address the goals and objectives  AND  descriptions of two ways to improve the environment to promote active engagement, support individual learning goals, and promote a challenging learning environment</p>	<p>Developed an individualized plan for a child that included the following:  Fewer than two long-term goals and two short-term goals for each long-term goal  AND/OR  descriptions of fewer than four instructional strategies that reflect the child's language, culture, and family background and address the goals and objectives  AND/OR  descriptions of fewer than two ways to improve the environment to promote active engagement, support individual learning goals, and promote a challenging learning environment</p>	<p>Did not develop an individualized plan for a child</p>
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## **Early Childhood Special Education NCATE Assessment 3 Ability to Plan Instruction**

### ***Instructional Planning Analysis***

Early Childhood Special Education NCATE Assessment 3 is the Environmental and Curriculum Analysis in ECED 403/503 Inclusive Curriculum for Young Learners: Planning Instruction and Guidance. This assessment shows evidence of meeting CEC Standard Elements 4a, 5a, and 7b.

#### **Assessment Overview**

In this assessment, candidates will document knowledge of instructional strategies and planning through an intensive investigation of the connections between environment and curriculum in relation to individual student learning. They will illustrate their understanding of developmentally effective approaches to connect with children through the environment and curriculum. Candidates will use knowledge of individual learning differences to develop long-range instructional plans and shorter-range goals and objectives as well as instructional strategies to individualize instruction for children with exceptional learning needs within the context of their general curriculum and environment. Candidates will do the following:

- Provide a rich, detailed description of a classroom.
- Describe links between classroom environment and curriculum.
- Describe the environment from the perspective of a child in the classroom.
- Develop a plan to improve environment.
- Analyze interactions during a child-initiated activity.
- Develop an individual plan, within the context of the general environment and curriculum, that includes materials, organizational structures, interaction strategies, and technology resources, to meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of the identified child.

#### **CEC Standards Assessed**

*CEC 4a Evidence-based instructional strategies to individualize instruction for individuals with ELN*

*CEC 5a Create learning environments that support active engagement; encourage independence; and value diversity*

*CEC 7b Translate individualized plans into carefully selected shorter-range goals and objectives taking into consideration an individual's abilities and needs, the learning environment, and a myriad of cultural and linguistic factors*

## **Assessment Procedures**

Candidates will investigate the classroom environment from multiple perspectives and prepare a paper that integrates an analyses of the environment and interactions during a child-initiated activity with a long-range individualized instructional plan that includes shorter-range goals and objectives for a child with exceptional learning needs and identifies instructional strategies and changes needed in the environment to support the child's learning outcomes.

### **Step One: Prepare a written analysis of the classroom environment.**

Candidates will provide a written analysis of the classroom environment and recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the environment to meet the learning needs of all children. They will write a paper that provides an in-depth analysis of their classroom environment. Candidates will do the following:

- a. Describe and analyze the general environment from the teacher's point of view to include the affective environment, the social environment, the physical environment, and the temporal environment.
- a. Describe and analyze the environment from the classroom children's point of view: What messages are conveyed to children? What works well for children? What is difficult for children? How does this point of view differ from the teachers' point of view?
- b. Describe and analyze ways in which the environment promotes active engagement; encourages independence; and values all children with diverse abilities, culture, or language.
- c. Discuss the accessibility of the environment: How does the environment support children with exceptional learning needs?
- d. Illustrate the effect of the environment on interactions between students as well as among teachers, students, families, and specialists.
- e. Discuss and analyze the classroom environment from the family perspective and how the environment welcomes and includes families from diverse backgrounds.

### **Step Two: Interact with a child with a developmental or learning difference and record a conversation with the child during a child-initiated activity within the general environment.**

Candidates will integrate their understanding of positive and supportive relationships with children in a written analysis as they do the following:

- a. Review the taped conversation and describe and analyze ways in which the child demonstrates engagement with the classroom community of learners;
- b. Describe strategies used with the child to encourage responsiveness to open-ended questions and participation in feedback loops with the teacher; and
- c. Describe strategies used to encourage personal connections with the child.



**Step Three: Prepare an instructional plan for the same identified child in Step Two and based on an understanding of the child as well as an analysis of environment.**

Candidates will develop an individualized plan for a child with developmental or learning differences within the context of general environment and curriculum that includes the following:

- a. A description of the individual child that includes his or her age and developmental skill level and learning differences
- b. At least two measurable annual goals and two shorter-range objectives for each annual goal
- c. Descriptions of at least four instructional strategies that reflect the child's language, culture, and family background and address the goals and objectives and include the following:
  - i. Plans for implementation
  - ii. Changes to enhance the environment to support achievement of short-range objectives and long-term goals (Changes may include access to the use of materials, organizational structure modifications, specific interaction strategies, and appropriate technology resources.)
  - iii. Specific adaptations or accommodations, including the use of appropriate technology
- d. Candidates will respond to the following questions:
  - i. How does your analysis of your classroom environment and recommendations for change support individual learning needs and goals for this child?
  - ii. What is the impact of changes and modifications suggested for an individual child on other children and the environment as a whole?
  - iii. How will you evaluate success?

ECE PROGRAM OUTCOME STANDARDS (Aligned With State and CEC Standards)	Assessment Measure Descriptions			
	Exceeds Criteria	Meets Criteria	Partially Meets Criteria	No Evidence
<b>Early Childhood Special Education NCATE ASSESSMENT 3 Ability to Plan Instruction Environment and Curriculum Analysis ECED 403/503 Inclusive Curriculum for Young Learners: Planning Instruction and Guidance</b>				
CEC 4a Evidence-based instructional strategies to individualize instruction for individuals with ELN	Identified more than three evidence-based strategies in the individual plan for a child	Identified three evidence-based strategies in the individual plan for a child	Identified fewer than three evidence-based strategies and/or referenced evidence-based strategies briefly in the individual plan for a child	Did not provide evidence-based strategies identified in the individual plan for a child
CEC 5a Create learning environments that support active engagement, encourage independence, and value diversity	Analyzed current environment and identified more than three ways it promotes active engagement, encourages independence, and values diversity AND identified more than two ways to improve the environment to promote active engagement, encourage independence, and value diversity	Analyzed current environment and identified three ways it promotes active engagement, encourages independence, and values diversity AND identified two ways to improve the environment to promote active engagement, encourage independence, and value diversity	Analyzed current environment and identified one to two ways it promotes active engagement, encourages independence, and/or values diversity AND/OR identified one way to improve the environment to promote active engagement, encourage independence and/or value diversity	Did not identify how the environment promotes active engagement, encourages independence, and values diversity and did not identify ways to improve the environment to promote active engagement and value diversity

<p>CEC 7b Translate individualized plans into carefully selected shorter-range goals and objectives taking into consideration an individual's abilities and needs, the learning environment, and a myriad of cultural and linguistic factors</p>	<p>Developed an individualized plan for a child that included the following:  more than two long-term goals and more than two short-term goals for each long-term goal  AND  descriptions of more than four instructional strategies that reflect the child's language, culture, and family background and address the goals and objectives  AND  descriptions of more than two ways to improve the environment to promote active engagement, support individual learning goals, and promote a challenging learning environment</p>	<p>Developed an individualized plan for a child that included the following:  two long-term goals and two short-term goals for each long-term goal  AND  descriptions of four instructional strategies that reflect the child's language, culture, and family background and address the goals and objectives  AND  descriptions of two ways to improve the environment to promote active engagement, support individual learning goals, and promote a challenging learning environment</p>	<p>Developed an individualized plan for a child that included the following:  Fewer than two long-term goals and two short-term goals for each long-term goal  AND/OR  descriptions of fewer than four instructional strategies that reflect the child's language, culture, and family background and address the goals and objectives  AND/OR  descriptions of fewer than two ways to improve the environment to promote active engagement, support individual learning goals, and promote a challenging learning environment</p>	<p>Did not develop an individualized plan for a child</p>
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