



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
COURSE OUTLINE - FALL 2012
CD 1330 UNDERSTANDING CHILDREN'S PLAY

*To be recognized for educational excellence in the fields of early learning & child care
and educational assistant training.*

INSTRUCTOR: Terrah Lindsay B.Sc., M.S.

OFFICE: H134 **PHONE:** 539-2047

EMAIL: tlindsay@gprc.ab.ca

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 8:30 - 9:00; Tuesday: 11:30 - 12:15

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Please note, this text will also be used for CD 1350 in the winter semester.

Dietze, B. & Kashin, D. (2012). *Playing and Learning In Early Childhood Education*. Pearson.

A number of readings/resources will be placed on moodle; it is your responsibility to become familiar with this learning tool and to check it regularly.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course provides an introduction to the central role of play in early learning and child care settings, with an emphasis on developmentally appropriate, culturally-sensitive practices. This course focuses on a number of topics including the nature, value, and types of play, as well as important theories and issues regarding play. Students will also learn about the role of the practitioner in play, including the use of appropriate observation and documentation to understand and support children's development through play.

CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS: 3

DELIVERY MODE(S): Classroom instruction will include a combination of lectures, as well as small and large group work. Audio-visual material and additional resources will also be used.

OBJECTIVES: Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- *Explain how attitudes perceptions and theories of play have changed over time and how they have influenced practice in Early Learning and Child Care.
- *Define play and identify examples of play and non-play experiences.
- *Explain how play based programs meet children's developmental needs.
- *Classify children's play episodes, using the categories of play identified by Parten and Piaget.
- *Use appropriate observation and documentation tools and techniques to understand, and interpret children's play.
- *Articulate the role of the practitioner in facilitating, supporting, and extending children's play.
- *Discuss current issues regarding children's play.

GRADING CRITERIA:

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE			
GRADING CONVERSION CHART			
Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A ⁺	4.0	90 – 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	85 – 89	
A ⁻	3.7	80 – 84	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B ⁺	3.3	77 – 79	
B	3.0	73 – 76	GOOD
B ⁻	2.7	70 – 72	
C ⁺	2.3	67 – 69	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	63 – 66	
C ⁻	1.7	60 – 62	
D ⁺	1.3	55 – 59	MINIMAL PASS
D	1.0	50 – 54	
F	0.0	0 – 49	FAIL
WF	0.0	0	FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline

TRANSFERABILITY:

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

The last date to withdraw with permission is November 2, 2012.

In order to obtain credit for this course, students must achieve a minimum of a "C-"

EVALUATIONS (How do you get marks):

Play	15%	October 2 nd
Types of Play	15%	October 24 th
Observation/Documentation	20%	November 21 st
Supporting Play	15%	December 5 th (in class, open book)
Quiz	25%	December 12 th

Attendance/in class assignments/participation 10%

If a student misses more than 20% of scheduled classes, a grade of 'O' will be assigned.

ALL of the evaluations must be completed in order to pass the course.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

It is the right of the student and of the instructor to a favorable learning/teaching environment. It is the responsibility of the student and the instructor to engage in appropriate adult behaviors that positively support learning. This includes, but is not limited to treating others with dignity and respect. Cell phones are to be used outside of class time.

Students are responsible for missed class time, including the gathering of resources handed out during class. Be sure to check moodle.

The College expects students' conduct to be in accordance with basic rights and responsibilities. Refer to the College Admission Guide at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Refer to the College Admission Guide at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>
These are serious issues and will be dealt with severely.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

DATE	TOPIC/READINGS	IMPORTANT DATES
Sept. 4 (T)	Introductions Overview of course	
Sept. 5 (W)	Play <i>Play and Learning Chapter 1</i>	
Sept 11 (T)		
Sept. 12 (W)		
Sept.18 (T)		
Sept. 19 (W)	Types of Play <i>Play and Learning Chapter 2</i>	
Sept. 25 (T)		
Sept. 26 (W)		
Oct. 2 (T)		Play (due in class)
Oct. 3 (W)		
Oct. 9 (T)		
Oct. 10 (W)	Observation/Documentation <i>Play and Learning Chapter 3</i>	
Oct. 16 (T)		
Oct. 17 (W)		
Oct. 23 (T)		
Oct. 24 (W)		Types of Play
Oct. 30 (T)		
Oct. 31(W)		
Nov. 6 (T)		
Nov. 7 (W)		

Nov. 13(T)	FALL BREAK, no classes	
Nov. 14 (W)	Strategies for supporting play Play and Learning pages 108, 157-58, 196-7, 212, 251, 298, 356	
Nov. 20 (T)		
Nov. 21 (W)		Documentation
Nov. 27 (T)	Issues	
Nov. 28 (W)		
Dec. 4 (T)		
Dec. 5 (W)		Supporting (open book)
Dec. 11(T)	Catch up/Review	
Dec. 12 (R)	Quiz	Quiz

Assignments

The Value of Play

15%

Oct. 2nd

You will observe 3 different children involved in a play episode. The children can be on their own, or in a group.

You will:

Take 3- 4 pictures of the play episode.

Take notes of what the child/children SAID and DID.

Explain why the activity is considered play, or not (refer to your class notes)

Describe the learning/development that might be acquired through each play scenario for each of the developmental categories/domains:

- physical
- creative
- cognitive
- language and literacy
- social and emotional

*Please note, that if you take pictures of the children at your practicum placement, you must have signed permission, from the child's parent to use their picture. This **MUST** be submitted with your assignment. If it is not, a '0' will be given.

Types of Play

15%

October 24th

The purpose of this assignment is to assess your ability to recognize the cognitive and social categories of play.

Observe 4 different play episodes in the Children's Center or at your practicum placement*.

Take pictures of the play episodes. Take notes of what the children SAID and DID.

For each play episode include:

Child's age

A description of what was happening and the child's (or children's) actions

Sounds, words, and/or comments made by the child (or children).

Pictures of the play episode.

Identify the category of play:

Social

onlooker, solitary, parallel, associative, cooperative

Cognitive

functional, constructive, symbolic, games with rules

You must have 2 pictures depicting social play and 2 pictures depicting cognitive play.

For each play episode provide:

One comment about the child's development

An explanation of what the child appears to be interested in.

*Please note, that if you take pictures of the children at your practicum placement, you must have signed permission, from the child's parent to use their picture. This **MUST** be submitted with your assignment. If it is not, a '0' will be given.

Observation/Documentation

20% November 21st

Students will choose one child to observe in one of your practicum sites. If you are not registered in CD 1045, you will have to make arrangements to observe a child in the Children's Center. You may not complete these observations on your own child.

Part A

Using the information you have gained in class and the various handouts about observing and recording children's behavior as resources, complete two 20- minute observations of the child at play. One of your observations should be recorded using a running record format and the other as an anecdotal record. For confidentiality, use the child's initials or a pseudonym rather than the child's real name.

Part B

After you have completed both observations and written them up, write a summary about what you currently know about this child based on your two observations, using the following questions as a guide:

What did you learn about this child? Remember to base this summary only on the information you obtained from your observations. Did you learn anything about the child? For example, does the child seem to prefer playing alone or with one or two others? Are most of the child's interactions with adults or other children? Does the child involve him/herself in a quiet activity or participate in more active behavior? Does the child move from center to center of focus he/her attention of one or two? What does this information tell you about the child's attention span? Does the child use a lot of language in his/her play or is he/she quiet? What is the child able to do? Run, jump, skip, glue, draw with detail, build with blocks, ask for help from the teacher or other children, talk with other children? Is the child able to solve problems that arise? Does the child lead the play, or follow the lead of others. Is he/she able to share toys and materials and take turns? What does the child appear to be interested in? Is there a certain aspect of the activity/materials that the child is interested in?

Any information about the child that you include in this summary should be supported by the information from you observation.

Part C

What further questions do you have about this child's interests, behavior or development that you do not know from completing these two observations? How could you collect his information?

Based on the child's interest, what are two ways in which you could support or facilitate this interest?

Supporting Play

15%

December 5th

This assignment will take place in class. You will be able to access all materials provided in class and through Moodle.

Pictures, (with descriptions) of play episodes will be provided.

You will be asked to:

Describe what appears to be happening using descriptive language.

Explain what you might do to:

- a) support or facilitate the play
- b) extend this play episode.

Explain what you might say to:

- a) support or facilitate the play
- b) extend this play episode.

Quiz

25%

December 12th

Study questions will be provided for this quiz. It will not be open book. Regular attendance is strongly recommended.

Attendance/in class assignments

10%

A variety of in class activities will be marked; these will include application exercises, reflection exercises, short quizzes and group activities. If you are absent from class you will not have the opportunity to complete the work.

Additionally, you will be expected to check into moodle on a weekly basis and complete any assignments/readings posted.

If a student misses more than 20% of scheduled classes, a grade of '0' will be assigned.