

**GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE  
DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**

**CD 2020: ENVIRONMENTS  
FALL/WINTER 2002/2003**

**Dates:** Fall semester: September 9 to December 9, 2002  
Winter semester: Dates to be announced

**Hours:** 30

**Credit:** 2

**Location:** Fall semester: Portable B  
Winter semester: ECD classroom

**Class Time:** Fall semester: Monday 10am – 12pm  
Winter semester: Monday 1-3pm

**Instructor:** Pat Caulfield Fontaine, B.ED., M<sup>Ed</sup> Gill University

**Office:** H128

**Office Hours:** By appointment

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**Textbook:** None required

**Pre-requisites:** Students must be eligible for enrollment in CD 2140/2160 (Spring Nursery and Seminar) immediately following completion of CD 2020.

**Course Description:** This course focuses on how the child's physical environments support social, cognitive, physical, and emotional development during the early childhood years. Students will analyze specific aspects and components of high quality environments for young children and will learn important principles that can be applied to the design of indoor and outdoor environments for preschool children.

**Class Format:**

This class offers students the opportunity to learn on their own, as well as through interaction with their peers, their instructor and other resource people. Learning is supported through the use of group and independent tasks, as well as lectures, class discussions, and audiovisual presentations.

**Course Objectives:** Upon successful completion of this course, the learner will:

1. Be able to describe how the physical environments experienced in childhood contribute to social, cognitive, emotional and physical development.
2. Demonstrate understanding of the potential impact that outdoor play spaces (natural and designed) have on the development and behaviour of young children.
3. Be able to use specific design principles and guidelines to plan and evaluate outdoor play spaces for children.
4. Be able to discuss and apply specific design principles and guidelines which work together to create a high quality indoor, play-based learning environment for children.
5. Be able to design, set up, maintain, and evaluate child-centred, play-based learning environments which respond to the developmental needs of young children.

*"We value space because of its power to organize, promote pleasant relationships between people of different ages...provide changes, promote choices and activity, and its potential for sparking all kinds of social, affective and cognitive learning. All this contributes to a sense of well-being and security in children. We also think that the space has to be a sort of aquarium which mirrors the ideas, values, attitudes and cultures of the people who live within it" (Loris Malaguzzi, 1994).*

**Grading Policies:**

1. An Assignment package for the Fall semester will be distributed at the first class in September. The Winter semester Assignment Package will be distributed at the first class in January.
2. In this course there are 5 major assignments. There are 2 in the Fall semester and 3 in the Winter semester. These assignments are outlined in the Assignment Package.

3. Each assignment is graded using the following 9-point stanine system:

9 (90 - 100%)	4 (50 - 56%)
8 (80 - 89%)	3 (45 - 49%)
7 (72 - 79%)	2 (26 - 44%)
6 (65 - 71%)	1 (0 - 25%)
5 (57 - 64%)	

Each assignment carries equal weight. Your final grade for the course is an average of all the marks you receive on your assignments.

4. Submission dates for assignments are outlined in the Assignment packages. Written assignments must be submitted by 4:30 PM on the day they are due. Initially, late assignments will be downgraded by 1 stanine. However, an assignment will receive a grade of zero if it has not been received by 4:30 PM, two weeks after the due date. **\*There is a special assignment deadline for the set-up of Spring Nursery and for the set-up of the "environmental challenges" that are a part of Spring Nursery. These deadlines are discussed in the Assignment package for the winter semester.**
5. The Student Handbook for the Department of Early Childhood Development outlines the standards for submission of written work. Students are expected to meet these standards; the academic quality (spelling, sentence structure, etc.) of your work will affect your grade.

**Attendance:**

Your attendance in Environments classes is critical to the success of Spring Nursery. Therefore, any student who misses 20% or more of class time, without a doctor's certificate to substantiate the reason for the absence, will be withdrawn from the course and will not be participating in Spring Nursery.

**In-class Behaviour:**

This is an adult learning environment. As such, students are expected to behave in a mature, responsible, and respectful manner. As outlined in the College Calendar, the instructor has the right to deny access to students who disrupt learning. This includes students who consistently arrive late.