

DEPARTMENT of Education

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2025

CD1330 (B2): Understanding Children's Play – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:

Amanda Young

OFFICE:**OFFICE HOURS:**

By Appointment

PHONE: N/A

E-MAIL: ayoung@nwpolytech.ca

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.

PREREQUISITE(S): None

COREQUISITE(S): None

REQUIRED MATERIALS: Bertrand, J. (2026). *Becoming and Being an Early Childhood Professional*, 2nd Canadian Edition, Toronto, Canada. Cenegage Learning Canada, Inc.

DELIVERY MODE(S): Classroom instruction will a combination of lectures, discussions, small and large group work. Audio-visual materials and other resources will also be used. Class is from 10:00 am to 11:20 am Tuesday and Thursday mornings from September 4th to December 11th in room B305.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon successful completion of this course, students 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.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>.

**** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a 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.**

EVALUATIONS:

Attendance and Participation: 15% total. 1% for each week

Tests x2: 16% total. 8% for each.

Quizzes x4: 4% total. 1% for each.

Discussion Posts x4: 8% total. 2% for each.

Learning Activities x4: 28.5% total. 7.13% for each.

Assignments x3: 28.5% total. 9.5% for each.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most institutions will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less** than C-.

Grading Chart for courses with Alpha Grading:

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94		C	2.0	63-66

A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

Grades for this course will be assigned as a percentage. The minimum passing grade is 60%.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Date	Topic	Textbook Reading	Assignments, Tests, Quizzes, Learning Activities, Discussion Posts
W1 Sept 4	Introduction to Course History of Play P.1	Chapters 1 and 2	
W2 Sept 9	History of Play P.2	Chapter 2	Quiz #1
W2 Sept 11	Processes of Play and Understanding Play Based Learning P.1	Chapter 3	Learning Activity #1 Due September 12
W3 Sept 16	Processes of Play and Understanding Play Based Learning P.2 And Outdoor Play P.1	Chapters 3 and 4	Discussion Post #1 Due September 16 th
W3 Sept 18	Outdoor Play P.2	Chapter 4	Learning Activity #2 Due September 20 th
W4 Sept 23	Understanding Planning Children's Play Spaces	Chapter 7	Discussion Post #2 Due September 23 rd
W4 Sept 25	Tentative Date for Visiting a Childcare Center		
W5 Sept 30	No Class for National Day of Truth and Reconciliation		

W5 Oct 2	Current Issues: Looking Ahead	Chapter 12	Assignment #1 Due October 2 nd
W6 Oct 7	Current Issues: Looking Ahead Debate	Chapter 12	Learning Activity #3 Due October 7 th
W6 Oct 9	Play and Development: Developmentally Appropriate Practices	Chapter 5	Quiz #2
W7 Oct 14	Test 1 Review		
W7 Oct 16	Test 1		Test #1
W8 Oct 21	Play and Developmental Patterns: Social Development and Principles of ECE	Chapter 1	Quiz #3
W8 Oct 23	Loose Parts Play	Chapter 4	Discussion Post #3 Due October 24 th
W9 Oct 28	Creating Responsive Environments	Early Learning Frameworks	
W9 Oct 30	Loose Parts Class Activity		
W10 Nov 4	Quality Matters	Chapter 10	
W 10 Nov 6	The Role of the Practitioner: Intentional Teaching	Chapter 9	Quiz #4 and Assignment #2 Due November 6 th
Nov 10-14	Reading Week		
W12 Nov 18	Holistic Play-Based Goals and Observing, Documenting, Interpreting Children's Play	Early Learning Frameworks Chapter 6	
W12 Nov 20	Learning Stories P.1		Learning Activity #4 due November 20 th

W13 Nov 25	Special Class: Observations		
W13 Nov 27	Learning Stories P.2		Discussion Post #4 Due November 28 th
W14 Dec 2	Documentation Pannels		
W14Dec 4	Documentation Pannels		Assignment #3 Due December 4 th
W15 Dec 9	Test #2 Review		
W15 Dec 11	Test #2		Test #2

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

NWP expects students' conduct to be in accordance with basic rights and responsibilities. Please refer to the NWP calendar regarding rights and responsibilities. In addition, meet all submission deadlines, and maintain open communication with the instructor.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

Additional Information:

It is the right of the student and of the instructor to a favourable learning/teaching environment. It is the responsibility of the student and the instructor to engage in appropriate adult behaviours that positively support learning. This includes treating others with dignity and respect and following the expectations outlined below.

Student Attendance and Participation:

- You are expected to comment, respond to questions, interact with classmates, and otherwise contribute to the class dialogue. Questions are welcomed and encouraged. If you're wondering about something, most likely several classmates are as well, only they're afraid to speak up, so ask! To participate effectively, you should have the day's reading completed before class begins. This will allow you to comment, answer questions, and ask questions of



your own. A participation mark of 15% is attributed to this class and will reflect your engagement in the above areas. Class begins promptly on time, and it is expected that students arrive on time for class and leave only when class is finished.

- To receive full marks for participation and attendance students are expected to:
 - Sign in at the start of class. Attendance sheet will only be available for the first 5-10 minutes of class. Failure to sign in will result in an absent mark from the class.
 - Be on time for class start and stay until the end.
 - Turn off/put away technology not being used for instruction, that could be a distraction (phones, other computers, tablets). Studies indicate that cell phones not only interfere with your learning, but also the students around you.
- Students should choose courses with class times that work with their employment and personal commitments, and arrange medical/dental appointments, job interviews, full or part-time employment, child care and any other personal commitments around their course schedule, as students will not generally be excused from class for such activities.
- If you are unable to make class, communication is key. If your absence is for a legitimate reason (illness, family crisis), please let me know as soon as possible via email. Please send a new e-mail for each class missed for a legitimate reason, or clearly state which days will be missed. E-mailed notices of absence do not automatically “roll over” for future missed dates.
- Students are responsible for all missed material, including material missed due to legitimate/excused absences. Slideshows are posted to MyClass, and further information can be obtained from classmates. If, after you have reviewed the class materials, you have questions, please contact me and I'll be pleased to assist you.
- Missing a due date for a discussion post will result in a mark of 0.

Test(s)

- You must be present in CD 1330 to write the test(s). If an absent is marked during dates where there will be a test and no communication has been made, then a resulting mark of zero will be recorded.

Assignments and Learning Activities

- Hand in assignments via MyClass by the date indicated. ALL assignments will be typed, double spaced (or follow the provided template) and will include a cover page with your name, course number and assignment name.
- A 10% deduction will be applied per day for up to 10 days for any Learning Activity or Assignment that is handed in late, even by a few minutes after the deadline. After 10 days the Learning Activity or Assignment will receive a 0.
- Students must express any questions or concerns regarding Learning Activities or Assignments no later than 48 hours before the due date by emailing the instructor. I am here to help and support your success. You may book office hours with me to review concerns or questions. Please note that I do not pre-grade work prior to submission.
- Extensions will be granted on an instructor's discretion. Valid reasons for asking for an extension include technological failure (may be used 1 time during the course), extreme illness or injury (doctors note will be required to verify at students' expense within 48 hours of notification), family or individual emergency or crisis. Extensions will not be granted due to poor time management, work schedule conflicts, or granted the due date of the Learning Activity or Assignment.

AI & Turnitin

- Completing learning activities and assignments is a critical part of learning and essential to the development of your professional practice as an educator. Therefore, in this course, all learners will pledge to use AI tools in ethical and appropriate ways.
 - For example, it would not be ethical or appropriate to use Generative Artificial Intelligence applications such as ChatGPT to write a draft of a learning activity or assignment and submit it as your own work.
 - In comparison, it would be ethical and appropriate for you to use AI tools such as Spell Check or Grammarly to identify spelling and grammar errors in your own work so you can correct them before submission.
 - The use of Generative Artificial Applications such as ChatGPT without proper citation will be considered plagiarism and treated as such using Northwestern Polytechnic's Academic Misconduct Procedures. Assignments found to have been created using AI/bots will not be graded and no resubmissions will be accepted. Additional penalties may also be applied to your participation grade.
 - If you require additional clarity on the use of AI in this course, please reach out to your instructor.

Student Supplies and Personal Items

- Please be advised some courses in the ELCC program require materials for assignments. If you purchase items or bring items from home for your assignments, projects, or any other academic activities, please be aware that NWP is not responsible for any loss, damage, or theft that may occur. We advise you to take appropriate measures to safeguard your belongings.

Additional Information

- Names/Pronouns: At the start of the course, my list of students' names is based on the register. If you would prefer to be called something else, please let me know, and I will adjust my list accordingly, and use your preferred name from that point on. You should feel free to use your preferred given name on all essays and submitted assignments. (If your preferred surname varies from the name under which you are registered, I may need occasional reminders.) If you want to tell me your pronouns, you should feel free to do so. I will respect your pronouns. All students are expected to respect their classmates' preferred names and pronouns.
- Office Hours: My office hours are based on appointments booked via email. Around important due dates (i.e. assignments) I will verbally communicate when I will be available for drop-ins during lectures. I meet with students in the order that they show up. This is your time, as much as class is. Please don't feel you're imposing, I am here to support your success and learning in the course. Office hours are cancelled if the instructor is sick. But I'll post an announcement to that effect, and re-schedule when I'm better. Generally, meeting times vary based on the reason for the appointment. Typically, appointments range from 10 minutes to 30 minutes depending on the reason. Usually I allocate 15 minute time blocks for meetings.
- Communication: Please keep communication lines open. Ask questions, email me, seek me out and let me know if you are struggling with class content or deadlines. I am more than



willing to help you in your learning so you can soak up all that there is to learn. However, I cannot help you if I do not know you need help. Communication is key!

- Crisis Management: I'm not a monster, but I'm not psychic, either. If something goes wrong in your life, I won't automatically know. If you let me know, I will work with you to help you keep up/catch up in the course. You are human and crises happen to us all. I will happily work with you to ensure they don't derail your academic career.
- Grades: How you do on assignments and in class has no bearing on how I view you as a person. Although marking can often be subjective, I do my upmost to grade the quality of the work based on the rubrics that are included. You are separate from your work, and we are entitled to bad days. Please understand that I am more interested in your learning/growth than your grades, as you should be too.
- Students will be allowed to make one re-submission during the duration of the course. Re-submissions can only be completed for assignments, not for learning activities, tests, quizzes, discussion posts, or attendance/participation. There is only one resubmission.

Resubmissions will only be accepted during the last week of the course from December 7th, 2025 to December 12th, 2025. The resubmission is in place to help you apply feedback directly and increase your grade in the course. Students must notify the instructor via email when a re-submission is made so the instructor knows the student has resubmitted. In the email, the student must include the course number, the student's full name, the assignment details, and date of re-submission. Resubmissions will not be accepted after December 12th, 2025, even by a few minutes.