

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2026

CD1011 (EC): Introduction to Early Learning and Child Care – 2 (2-0-0) 30 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:	Dawna Baird	PHONE:	(780)830-9247
OFFICE:	MyClass	E-MAIL:	dbaird@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	Monday evenings 6:00-7:00 pm or by appointment.		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course offers a broad overview of the field of early learning and childcare. Students will investigate historical factors that have shaped early childhood theory and practice and will examine a variety of program models and their goals. The roles and responsibilities of the early childhood educator and determinants of quality early childhood programs are also discussed. This course also introduces students to some of the agencies and resources that support the professional growth of early childhood educators.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: None

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS: No Textbook Required.

Students are responsible for all fees associated with ProctorU, a live proctoring service for online exams. Fees are paid when you schedule your exams through ProctorU.

Pricing per exam is as follows:

60 minutes or less - \$16 USD

61-120 minutes - \$25 USD

121 - 180 minutes - \$31 USD

DELIVERY MODE(S): Online Distance Delivery



LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

- Identify historical influences on current early childhood theory and practice.
- Explain the need and benefits of affordable, accessible, high-quality childcare and early education programs in Canada.
- Outline the defining characteristics of various childcare and early education programs (e.g. play school, family day care, out-of-school care, preschool, etc.) existing in Canada today and the challenges and rewards of working in each.
- Describe a variety of contemporary program models, their goals and philosophies, e.g. Montessori, Waldorf, Reggio Emilia, High Scope, Aboriginal Head Start, Forest Preschools.
- Identify the characteristics of high-quality early childhood programs, including the attributes required of the early childhood educator.
- Demonstrate understanding of ethics and professionalism in Early Learning and Child Care.
- Demonstrate an awareness of key agencies and resources available to early learning and childcare professionals in Canada to support their professional growth in the field.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page

<http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>.

**** 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:

Learning Activities	30%
Assignments	50%
Participation – discussions	20%

Assignment details and specific instructions will be provided on MyClass.

Assignments must be submitted in the dropbox on MyClass by the date and time indicated. **ALL** assignments **MUST** be completed and turned in to pass the course.

Unless arrangements have been made with the instructor prior to the due date, late assignments will be docked **10%** per day. If the assignment is not received within 5 days of the due date, a grade of 0 will be given.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Northwestern Polytechnic uses the **ALPHA** grading system as described in the table below:

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

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

COURSE SCHEDULE:

There are due dates for unit written work completion listed throughout the course notes in each Unit – this will help students stay on track to a successful completion of the course.

EVALUATION	Learning Activities Due Date	Discussion Due Date	Assignment Due Date
Unit 1	January 25	February 1	February 8
Unit 2	March 1	March 1	

Unit 3	March 15	March 29	April 12
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STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Northwestern Polytechnic expects students' conduct to be in accordance with basic rights and responsibilities. Please refer to the NWP calendar regarding rights and responsibilities.

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 at <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 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 treating others with dignity and respect and following the expectations outlined below.

Assignments

- Hand in assignments via MyClass by the date indicated. ALL assignments will be typed, doublespaced (or follow the provided template) and will include a cover page with your name, course number and assignment name.

AI & Turnitin

- Completing discussion posts, 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.
- Students may be required to submit their course work to Turnitin, a third-party service provider engaged by BVC. Turnitin identifies plagiarism by checking databases of electronic books and articles, archived webpages, and previously submitted student papers. Students acknowledge that any course work or essays submitted to Turnitin will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where it will be used solely to detect plagiarism. The terms that apply to a student's use of Turnitin are described on Turnitin.com.

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The collection of and access to the personal information listed above is permitted under subsection 33(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, RSA 2000, c F-25, which states, "No personal information may be collected by or for a public body unless that information relates directly to and is necessary for an operating program or activity of the public body." In addition, subsection 39(4) states, "A public body may use personal information only to the extent necessary to enable the public body to carry out its purpose in a reasonable manner."

Records Retention: Any video records of you created by ProctorU will be kept by ProctorU for a maximum of 7 days in order to make a decision about any possible academic integrity infraction, after which time it shall be permanently deleted. All other personal information collected and stored by ProctorU within your profile account will be permanently deleted if the account has not been used after one year.

Consent to Store Personal Information Outside Canada

ProctorU is an American company. An agreement is in place between ProctorU and Northwestern Polytechnic by which ProctorU will take reasonable steps to protect your personal information from unauthorized access and disclosure. Information about how ProctorU protects your privacy can be found in their [Privacy Policy](#).

By using the ProctorU service via Northwestern Polytechnic, you consent to the storage of and access to your personal information outside of Canada.

This consent is in effect from the day you register with ProctorU and expires one year after completion of your exam.

Additional privacy and liability information regarding the use of ProctorU is available on the NWP website.