

DEPARTMENT of Education

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2026

CD 2020 (A3/B3): Environments for Young Children – 2 (5-0-0) 30 Hours for 6 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:	Theresa Suderman.	PHONE:	780 539-2787.
OFFICE:	H213	E-MAIL:	tsuderman@nwpolytech.ca .
OFFICE HOURS:	Mondays 11:00am – 12:00pm		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course focuses on how the child's physical environments support social, cognitive, physical and emotional development through 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.

PREREQUISITE(S): Successful completion of Year 1

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS: Course materials provided in class.

DELIVERY MODE(S): In class

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

On completion of this course the student will be able to:

- Explain how the physical environments experienced in childhood contribute to the social, cognitive, emotional and physical development of young children.
- Describe the key components of a well-designed outdoor play space for young children.
- Discuss and apply specific design principles and guidelines that work together to create a high quality indoor play space for children.
- Demonstrate the ability to design a pre-school environment that gives young children and

their families a sense of belonging.

- Design, establish, maintain and evaluate developmentally appropriate environments that respond to the developmental needs and interests of young children.

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:

In class assignments 2 each week – 60%

Outdoor Environment Assignment – 15%

Indoor Environment Assignment – 25%

Please note: In class assignments must be completed ‘in class’ on the date they were assigned.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**. You must receive a C- or above to pass this course.

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

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COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Class 1	Introduction	5% assignment in class
Class 2	Factors that Effect Play Ranges	5% assignment in class
Class 3	Outdoor Environments (Infants/Toddlers)	5% assignment in class
Class 4	Outdoor Environments (Preschool)	5% assignment in class
Class 5	Designing Outdoor Spaces (Assignment Introduction)	5% assignment in class
Class 6	Seeing environments from a child's perspective	5% assignment in class
Class 7	The environment as the third teacher / The environment and a sense of belonging	5% assignment in class Assignment 1 Due
Class 8	The importance of aesthetic environments	5% assignment in class
Class 9	Color and light / Texture and natural materials	5% assignment in class
Class 10	Aesthetics and presentation of materials	5% assignment in class
Class 11	Aesthetics and spatial variety	5% assignment in class Assignment 2 Due
Class 12	Creating environments which support and promote children's autonomy and competence/Minimizing the effects of environmental stressors	5% assignment in class

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:

- ❖ **Statement on the Use of AI in this Course:** 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. 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.

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.

If you require additional clarity on the use of AI in this course, please reach out to your instructor.