

DEPARTMENT of Education

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2026

CD 2020 (EC): Environments for Young Children – 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: N/A

PHONE:N/A**E-MAIL:**

ayoung@nwpolytech.ca

OFFICE

HOURS: By

Appointment

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course focuses on how the child's physical environment supports social, cognitive, physical and emotional development through the early childhood years. Students will analyze specific components of high quality environments for young children and will learn important principles that can be applied to the design of indoor and outdoor play environments for preschool children.

PREREQUISITE(S): Successful completion of Year 1 or consent of the Department. *This course must be successfully completed immediately prior to CD 2114 Practicum.

COREQUISITE(S): None

REQUIRED 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 asynchronous.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Explain how the physical environment experienced in childhood contributes 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 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: All submitted work is graded according to the grading criteria or rubric set for the learning activity or assignment. Assignment details and specific instructions will be discussed in MyClass. Assignments and Learning Activities must

be submitted in the Dropbox on MyClass by 11:59 pm on the due date. A 10% deduction will be applied per day for up to 5 days. After 5 days, if no submission has been made, the resulting grade will be 0. Assignments are worth 50% (each is worth 16.67%, 3 total). Learning Activities worth 30% (each is worth 6%, 5 total). Discussion Contributions are worth 10% (each is worth 2%, 5 total). Quizzes are worth 10% (2% each, 5 total). If quizzes or discussion posts are not completed by their due date, the resulting grade is 0 and no extension will be provided. Extensions will not be granted on the due date unless there are exceptional circumstances. Unethical use of AI or uncited use of AI will result in a mark of 0 with no opportunity to resubmit.

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:

Module 1: September Total Learning Activities: 1 Total Assignments: 1 Total Discussion and Response Posts: 6	September 12 th Course Outline Quiz September 19 th Discussion Post (x3) September 19 th Quiz 1 September 19 th Learning Activity September 26 th Response Post (x3)
---	---

Total Quizzes: 2	September 26 th Assignment #1
Module 2: October Total Learning Activities: 2 Total Assignments: 1 Total Discussion and Response Posts: 4 Total Quizzes: 1	October 10 th Discussion Post (x1) October 10 th Learning Activity (x2) October 17 th Response Post (x1) October 17 th Quiz 2 October 24 th Assignment #2
Module 3: November/December Total Learning Activities: 2 Total Assignments: 1 Total Discussion and Response Posts: 2 Total Quizzes: 2	November 21 st Learning Activity (x2) November 21 st Discussion Post (x1) November 28 th Response Post (x1) November 28 th Quiz 3 December 5 th Assignment #3 December 5 th Final Cumulative Quiz

All submitted work is graded according to the grading criteria or rubric set for the learning activity or assignment. Assignment details and specific instructions will be discussed in MyClass. Assignments and Learning Activities must be submitted in the Dropbox on MyClass by 11:59 pm on the due date. A 10% deduction will be applied per day for up to 5 days. After 5 days, if no submission has been made, the resulting grade will be 0. If quizzes or discussion posts are not completed by their due date, the resulting grade is 0 and no extension will be provided. Extensions will not be granted on the due date unless there are exceptional circumstances. Unethical use of AI or uncited use of AI will result in a mark of 0 with no opportunity to resubmit.

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:

- Students must be familiar with the Distance Education Student Handbook and any questions regarding any regulations, policies, and conduct that apply to students studying via online delivery, as outlined in the calendar.
- Meet all submission deadlines.
- Participate in online discussion boards.
- To have computer hardware and software that meets standards set for online delivery.

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/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

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

Additional Information:

It is the right of the student and 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:

Learning Activities:

Each unit has special tasks for you to complete. These learning activities are to be submitted to your instructor on MyClass in the drop box by 11:59 pm of their deadlines for feedback and marking. Learning Activities submissions will not be accepted over email. A 10% deduction will be applied for up to 5 days for late learning activities. If there is no submission after 5 days a 0 will be applied. Learning Activities allow your instructor to monitor your learning throughout the course and to provide you with helpful feedback. The rubric for Learning Activities can be found under Important Information and at the end of the Learning Activities description.

Assignments:

These are an important part of your learning. Each assignment must be fully completed and submitted to your instructor on MyC;ass in the drop box by 11:59 pm of their deadlines for feedback and marking. Assignment submissions will not be accepted over email. Your instructor has set specific deadlines for each of the assignments in this course. Late assignment will be penalized by 10% a day for up to 5 days, after this a 0 will be the resulting mark. It is strongly recommended that you keep copies of each assignment before submitting them to your instructor. Save a copy on your computer or Google Drive. 50% of your final grade for this course is



based on the quality of work shown in your assignments. For a complete assignment rubric please see the end description on each assignment outline.

Quizzes:

The quizzes are in place to review the material in the course before the module assignment. This is done to support your learning and understanding of the material before the assignment. All quizzes will be open book. This means that you can use your notes and course materials during the time of the quiz. Quizzes will only be accessible on the dates indicated in the course schedule. There are no resubmissions for quizzes. Failure to complete the quiz during its availability will result in a mark of 0. Quizzes will not be re-opened once the due date has passed.

Discussion Posts:

Discussion posts are designed for online learners to engage with each other in meaningful ways and to gain insight into each others perspectives. Discussion posts will only be accessible on the dates indicated in the course schedule. There are no resubmissions for quizzes. Failure to complete the discussion and response post during its availability will result in a mark of 0. Quizzes will not be re-opened once the due date has passed.

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. Use of AI must be disclosed and documented with proper citations. If the use of AI is not disclosed properly the learning activity or assignment will receive a mark of 0 with no opportunity to resubmit.
 - 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 before submission of learning activities or assignments.

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.
- **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! If you are struggling with completing learning activities or assignments (i.e. student does not have access to a childcare center due to medical conditions) the instructor must be notified a minimum of 48 hours in advance.
- **Extensions/Exceptional Circumstances:** Extensions will be granted for the following reasons: Student or family illness/emergency and technical difficulties (may be used only 1 time during the course). Extensions will not be granted when requested on the due date (unless there is an exceptional circumstance), due to poor time management, or due to work schedule conflicts. Extensions must be requested, a minimum of 48 hours in advance with a valid reason, and it is up to the instructor to grant or deny extension requests.
- **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 utmost 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 be completed for one assignment or one learning activity for any module in the course as long as AI was not used resulting in a mark of 0. There is only one resubmission. Resubmissions will be accepted during the last week of the course from December 7th, 2026, to December 11th, 2026. 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 learning activity and/or assignment details, and the date of re-submission. Resubmissions will not be accepted for assignments or learning activities penalized for using AI unethically. There is no re-submissions for quizzes, discussion posts, or response posts.
- Instructors reserve the right to make exceptions to certain rules in extenuating circumstances, on a case-by-case basis.
- Grades are not negotiable and will not be changed (with the exception of instructor error, i.e. adding up totals incorrectly). The goal is for you to demonstrate your learning, not chase a number. Your instructor is available to clarify any misunderstandings you may have about the content to ensure better understanding; however, posted grades will not be altered.

USING PROCTORU:

This course uses ProctorU Live for online exams. To utilize this service, you are required to complete the following steps:

- Create a ProctorU account by clicking the ProctorU link in the course.
- Download and install the Guardian Web Browser, Google Chrome, and the ProctorU extension.
- Schedule each exam at least 3 days (72 hours) in advance. If you miss this deadline, you cannot take the exam.

- Pay for the proctoring service. The fees are exclusively your responsibility and in no event shall be the responsibility of Northwestern Polytechnic.

For more detailed instructions [click here](#), and for video instructions [click here](#).

Before each exam, you must complete a room scan with your web camera, during which you will show your surroundings to a live proctor.

The invigilator will ask to view (but not collect or store) your student identification to verify your identity and will remotely access your computer to unlock the exam. When monitoring your actions via video streaming, the invigilator may possibly record your actions if they suspect academic integrity behavioural issues. You will be verbally notified if/when recording begins.

The personal information collected through ProctorU is collected under the authority of the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* (s. 65) and the *Protection of Privacy Act* (ss. 4(a) & (c)). This information is used to verify your identity, monitor exam conditions, and address potential academic integrity concerns during your online exam.

NWP may input the collected personal information into automated systems to fulfill the purposes stated above. This may include activities such as flagging potential academic integrity concerns for review.

Questions regarding the collection of this personal information can be directed to: The Office of the Vice-President Academic – Northwestern Polytechnic – VPAR@NWPolytech.ca

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.