

Children are not things to be molded, but people to be unfolded. Jess Lair

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

TEACHER ASSISTANT PROGRAM

TA 1234

THE ROLE OF THE PARAPROFESSIONAL IN THE CLASSROOM

FALL 2007 September 20 to November 22, 2007

CLASS: Thursdays, 3:45 – 6:45 p.m.

LOCATION: Crystal Park School

CREDITS: 30 hours 3credits

INSTRUCTOR: Aum Nicol, B.Ed.

CONTACT: Home Phone: 402-3206 St. Clement: 532-4698
Email: aumnicol@gpcsd.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course develops knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for the paraprofessional to perform their roles and responsibilities as a member of an instructional team. Students are equipped to function effectively and professionally in a wide variety of educational setting from kindergarten through senior high school.

CLASS FORMAT

According to Edgar Dale from the University of Texas, we tend to remember 10% of what we read, 20% of what we hear, 30% of what we see, 50% of what we hear and see, 70% of what we say and 90% of what we both say and do. Therefore, **student participation is a vital part of this course.**

Students will be engaged in active learning, and classes will include a mixture of lecture, discussion, small group work, case studies, in-class assignments and audio-visual materials.

REQUIRED TEXT

Alberta Teachers' Association. Teachers and Teachers' Assistants: Roles and Responsibilities.
Edmonton, AB.

Hammeken, Peggy. Inclusion an Essential Guide for the Paraprofessional.
Minnetonka, MN.

Note: Additional required readings will be placed on reserve at the GPRC Library.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

To demonstrate an understanding that is enduring, learners will uncover the answers to the following essential questions:

1. What personal strengths and attributes do you have, that are relevant to the characteristics of a paraprofessional in various classroom settings?
 2. How do you implement goal setting and self-evaluation as a means of establishing a professional development plan?
 3. What are the roles and responsibilities of the teacher, teacher assistant, special needs instructor and other members of the multi-disciplinary team?
 4. What is inclusion and why is it beneficial for all children?
 5. How do you motivate and engage students in the learning process?
 6. How do you develop the art of questioning?
 7. Can the learning environment be organized for effective learning?
 8. Can you respond to (correct) irresponsible student behaviour in a way that will help students learn to behave more responsibly?
 9. Who are our students with diverse learning needs?
 10. What is the role of the Paraprofessional with respect to working with diverse learners?
 11. What ethical practices are expected to be followed by the staff, students, parents, administration and the community?
 12. Why is collaboration important and how do you establish collaborative working relationships with student, parents, teachers and others?
 13. Why is reflection an important key to your success as a teacher assistant?
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COURSE EVALUATION

Reflective Journal

20%

Due: # 1 October 4

2 November 8

Becoming a reflective teacher assistant fosters personal and professional growth. Your journals should address specific questions and may also include ideas, questions and reflections as the result of your learning. Specific instructions and requirements will be handed out in class.

Lesson Plan Application Project

30%

Due: November 29

The purpose of this project is to provide you with the opportunity to develop a practical use of the topics we discuss in class.

Student will work in pairs. You will be responsible for adapting a lesson plan and developing a learning plan for two students. A student profile and a lesson plan will be provided for each student.

her/his responsibility to find out what was missed. For optimal learning and readiness for class participation, students should read the assigned chapters and articles before coming to class.

Late Arrival

Late arrivals are disruptive to the class. If you must arrive late, take the first seat available closest to the door. Get information about material missed from your classmates after class.

Assignments

All assignments must be typed and follow APA guidelines. Computers are available in the library, as well, the computer labs. See <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/departments/cts/labs.html> for more information.

Due Dates

Due dates are specified in the course schedule. All assignments must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. **ON** or **BEFORE** the day which they are due. **Late** assignments will be **penalized** at the rate of **5% per day**. That is, if an assignment receives a grade of 80% and is one day late, the grade recorded will be 75%; two days late 70% etc. Penalties include weekends and holidays.

Role & Responsibilities (30 hours) **The graduate will:**

1. Demonstrate an understanding of and describe the complexity of the role of the educational assistant within the context of the classroom in relation to the teacher, students and other colleagues within the educational setting.
2. Demonstrate professional conduct based on ethical standards of educational practice.
3. Describe the knowledge, skills and values necessary for working with students with varying abilities and cultural diversity.
4. Demonstrate personal accountability when working independently or as a member of an instructional team.
5. Examine one's own personal beliefs, attitudes and behaviours and develop a philosophy of education and beliefs about how children learn within an educational system.

FALL 2005 – CLASS SCHEDULE

Note: This schedule is tentative and subject to change.

DATE	TOPIC	READING	TEST/ ASSIGNMENT DUE DATE
Thurs. Sept. 20	Introductions; review course outline; expectations; Roles and Responsibilities -Who are teacher assistant's? -What duties can be assigned? What are the rights of the teacher assistant?	<u>ATA Manual</u> - in class reading assignment <u>RR-Dianne Carroll-</u> Considering Paraeducator, Training, Roles and Responsibilities	Provide Reading for Next Class on Learning Styles
Thurs. Sept. 27	Characteristics of the Teacher Assistant - personal strengths and attributes - values clarification -Learning Styles -Multiple Intelligences	Reading on Learning Styles	
Thurs. October 4	Inclusion - What is inclusion and why does it matter? - Why is labelling controversial? - Who are students with diverse Abilities Assisting Students with diverse learning needs -What are Individual Program Plans?	Hammeken – Ch. 1 pp. 18- 24 (Aum-read required readings doyal ch 4 and Interventions and Adaptations	Reflection Journal Due
Thurs. October 11	Ethical Practice - Professional behaviour - Confidentiality - Reporting child abuse - Legal issues	RR Gursky pp28-32 Hammeken Ch. 4	
Thurs. October 18	Collaboration and Teamwork -The Multi-disciplinary Team -The School Team -Making Relationships Work -Review	Hammeken pp. 27-32	

DATE	TOPIC	READING	TEST/ ASSIGNMENT DUE DATE
Thurs. October 25	Mid-term Test #1 In Class- Case Study Assignment		Mid-term Test #1
Thurs. Nov. 1	Classroom Environment - Establishing a positive environment, organizing skills -Behaviour Behaviour Management -Behaviour & Attention difficulties -Expectations, monitoring, reinforcement, responding, making a personal plan	Hammeken pp. 53-57; 77-78; 121-122 RR – Programs and Strategies Hammeken Ch. 18	Reflection Journal Due
Thursday Nov. 8	Classroom Instruction - Multi-level instruction - Cooperative learning - Mastery learning - Individual instruction - Motivating students to learn	Hammeken Ch. 6	
Thursday Nov. 15	Assisting across the curriculum and modifications - Modification categories - Text modifications - Written language modification - Subject modification	Hammeken Ch. 7 Gursky Ch. 4	
Thursday Nov. 22	Final Test #2		Final Test #2

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“NO QUESTIONS ASKED” COUPON

This coupon entitles _____ to submit an assignment up to 14 days late with no questions asked and no penalty assessed during this period. This coupon is not transferable to other students **and will not be replaced if lost**. This coupon applies to TA1234 assignments only. **To be valid, you must staple this coupon to your assignment**. Students who return the coupon unused on or before the last day of class will receive a 2% bonus for the course.

Aum Nicol
Grade 1 Teacher
Balanced Literacy Collegial Coach
St. Clement School
Grande Prairie, AB
School: (780) 532-4698
Fax (780) 532-4696
Home: (780) 402-3206
email: aumnicol@gpcsd.ca