



Course Outline

EDECE2005 ECOLOGY OF CHILDHOOD

Title: ECOLOGY OF CHILDHOOD

Code: EDECE2005

School / Division: School of Education

Level: Advanced

Pre-requisites: Nil

Co-requisites: Nil

Exclusions: Nil

Progress Units: 15

ASCED Code: 070101

Objectives:

This course is designed to advance students' awareness of the child's world.

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

Knowledge:

- Articulate a variety of impacts on the child's world
- Use a variety of different types of observation, documentation and assessment tools to understand, interpret and evaluate children's learning and development
- Draw on a range of theoretical perspectives to interpret documentation

Skills:

- Have developed skills in communicating with families, teachers and children
- Have developed skills in documenting and assessing children's learning and development

Values:

- Recognise differences in community views of caring for children in rural, regional and urban locations
- Be aware of the critiques and debates around observation, documentation and assessment practices in early childhood settings
- Be aware of legal and ethical responsibilities of teachers in relation to suspected child abuse and neglect

Content:

This course will develop students' skills and understanding of:

Topics may include:



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- Bronfenbrenner's ecology of childhood
- History of understanding childhood
- Multiple perspectives on childhood
- Ways of knowing about the child's world
- Risk and responsibility in childhood
- Contested notions of community responsibility for caring for children
- Rural and regional trends in early childhood practice
- Understanding and accessing research and theory about birth order
- Understanding the purpose of observation/documentation
- Utilising systems for recording children's learning and development in the context of services
- Using learning stories as accessible records of children's cognitive, social and emotional growth
- Recognising abuse and neglect of children
- Communicating with families, children and other professionals

Learning Tasks & Assessment:

Learning Task	Assessment	Weighting
Construct a portfolio that documents a child's learning and development. Use various types of observation and documentation and gather information from parents, teachers and the child to record a "story" of the child's learning and development over time. Interpret documentation and other child-related information on the child drawing on a variety of theoretical perspectives.	Case study	40-60%
Complete formal written reflections on learning over the course of study	Reflective essay (under exam conditions)	40-60%

Adopted Reference Style:

APA