

EDU8000 Early Childhood Principles and Practices

This course examines the pedagogical principles and practices which are most frequently adopted and considered most relevant in contemporary early childhood communities. Recent conceptions of learning and development in early childhood encompass views that children derive multiple benefits from meaningful relationships and positive interactions, from engaging in play, problem-solving and projects that are contextualised in personally evocative endeavours. It acknowledges that children have multiple pathways for learning, challenging taken-for-granted discourses.

Through inquiry learning, participants study the anthology of play and learning experiences that facilitate children's voice and participation in contemporary early childhood communities. This introductory course is designed to engage participants to direct their own learning of play and development, learning, and pedagogy for young children from birth to eight years of age, informed by scholarly research and relevant conversations from the field. This course will also focus attention on professional self-renewal through a 15 day professional experience placement.

Minimum teaching loads

WEEK 1 (DAY 1–5)

- Teaching and planning: complete one observation per day for each of two focus children
- Hours of teaching: two lessons per day with a focus child or a small group
- Other classroom duties: for the balance of time in the classroom, assist, assess, work with individual students.

WEEK 2 (DAY 6–10)

- Teaching and planning: complete one observation per day for each of two focus children
- Hours of teaching: two lessons per day with whole group working up to taking whole group for one session by end of week.
- Other classroom duties: for the balance of time in the classroom, assist, assess, work with individual students.

WEEK 3 (DAY 11–15)

- Teaching and planning: complete one observation per day for each of three focus children
- Hours of teaching: enact whole group teaching each day, working towards taking whole group for half day
- Other classroom duties: for the balance of time in the classroom, assist, assess, work with individual students.