

NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title: Observation, Participation and Seminar

Course #: ECE 210

Course Description: 3 credits

This course is designed to increase objectivity in observing and interpreting children's behavior, to observe developmental characteristics and to increase the awareness of normal patterns of behavior. Students will visit, observe and participate in an early childhood setting, approved by the instructor, for at least two hours per week for twelve (12) weeks. Seminar sessions with the instructor will be held to discuss and plan for the children's learning needs, which includes dialogue and skill-building activities to foster unbiased observation and interpretation of the behavior of young children's. This is a hybrid course with online components.

Pre-requisite/Co-requisite: None

Goals: To provide the student with:

1. Understanding of the goals, benefits and uses of assessment
2. Knowledge about and use of observation, documentation and other appropriate assessment tools and approaches
3. Enhanced awareness of the normal patterns of young children's behavior
4. Understanding of why objective and responsible assessment is important when working with children
5. Multiple opportunities to practice and document objective observations and apply theories of child development to their observations
6. Knowledge about the uses of observation and documentation for the advancement of the development of young children
7. Applications of how observation and assessment findings can be used to form partnerships with families and other professionals
8. Applications for using observation as a tool for planning curricular experiences and evaluating the overall classroom operation

Outcomes: With successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe why objective observation and confidential record keeping is important when working with children, families and caregivers
2. Explain the uses of observation and documentation for the advancement of the development of young children
3. Implement a variety of objective observations and apply theories of child development to the interpretation of data observed and recorded
4. Make use of multiple observational techniques and documentation for the advancement of the development of young children
5. Apply and explain how observation and assessment findings can be used to form partnerships with families and other professionals

6. Utilize objective observations and unbiased assessments as a tool for effectively communicating with families and professionals
7. Utilize observation as a tool for planning anti-biased curricular experiences in behalf of young children
8. Utilize multiple observations as a tool for evaluating the overall care and education settings
9. Describe and apply the Connecticut State Department of Education Preschool Standards to the ongoing assessment of young children
10. Create a simulated portfolio assessment