Designing and Managing the Learning Environment in Early Childhood Programs
Online
Eastern Illinois University
School of Family and Consumer Sciences
FCS 4250

Instructor: Ms. Donna Coonce, M.S., C.F.L.E.   Office Hours:
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No text required.

FCS 4250: (2-0-2) Focus on experientially rich environments where activity is child-directed and adults focus more on learning than on teaching.

General course objectives will include the study and measured knowledge of:

1. To develop concept of learning environments being more than lesson planning.
2. To establish norms for learning environments in an early childhood programs.
3. To identify state agency standards for early childhood program learning environment compliance.
4. To examine and evaluate curriculum models' guidelines for developing learning centers.
5. To examine accreditation criteria for environments.
6. To design child-choice learning centers and areas.
7. To design an outdoor learning environment.
8. To establish importance of the environment for children and adults.
9. To identify developmentally appropriate furnishings/equipment/materials for the quality learning environment.

Course requirements and evaluation:

1. Students will write reflections (2) on the content, activities, and class discussions. Total: **20 points**
2. Students will design a learning environment for an early childhood center. The design will include graphic design, furnishings, arrangement, cost estimates and detailed description. Students will post the design in the published area of the WebCt course environment. Total: **100 points**
3. Students will be actively engaged in discussions (5) and follow discussion criteria*. **50 points.**

*Discussion criteria: Discussion is an extremely important element of your evaluation for this course. Each discussion question (DQ) and reflection is worth 10 points. There is a combination of 5 questions representing 35% of your grade. The questions are intended to assess your comprehension and application of the concepts presented. Your responses will be evaluated on the following criteria:
a. Timeliness of response (1 pt off every day beyond the due date)
b. Clarity of response
c. Completeness of response
d. Scholarly support from reputable sources
e. Sentence structure and spelling

4. Students will evaluate a playground based on developmentally appropriateness, safety, etc. **30 points**

Evaluation:

Reflections	20 points
Learning Environment Design	100 points
Discussions	50 points
Playground Evaluation	30 points
	TOTAL POINTS 200

Grading Scale:

180-200 points (90- 100%)	= A
160-179 points (80-89%)	= B
140- 159 points (70-79%)	= C
120- 139 points (60-69%)	= D
119 or fewer points (59% or less)	= F

NOTE: If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, contact the Office of Disability Services at (217) 581-6583.