

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) program equips students with skills and knowledge in theories relating to child development through mental, physical, social, and emotional fostering. The program prepares one to understand and recognize a child’s wellbeing through physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development. Focused on applying theory to a hands-on approach that fosters a child’s learning and growth through areas such as curriculum theory, programming for children from infancy to school-age, child advocates to support communities, collaboration of various community supports/government agencies and more.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Career Opportunities include childcare worker assistant, childcare worker (daycare), daycare helper, daycare supervisor, daycare teacher, daycare worker, early childhood assistant, early childhood education worker, early childhood educator, early childhood educator assistant, early childhood supervisor.

CERTIFICATION

- Standard First Aid and CPR Level C

PREREQUISITES

1. Student has Grade 12 or equivalent or meets criteria for Mature Student Status.
2. Mature students must be 19 years of age, provide a Letter of Intent, provide most recent educational transcript, and pass a qualifying test.
3. The approved qualifying test for this program is the Wonderlic test. A passing score for this program is 14.
4. Student must provide a clear Criminal Record Check.
5. Student must provide a clear Vulnerable Sector Check.

Clear Criminal Record Check: Students acquiring a Clear Criminal Record Check for admission into a program take on the reasonableness of its validity. Students are solely accountable for any offences not uncovered by the investigation being

discovered and precluding the student from subsequent practicum, field placement or employment.

PLEASE NOTE: Student must provide a complete standard Immunization Form before starting their placement. Employers and Placement Hosts may require a Social Development Check in order to accept a student or graduate into their organization. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that they have no contraventions on file under the Family Services Act.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A student must obtain an overall grade, in each module of at least 70% in order to graduate and receive a diploma. A student must complete all requirements of Student Success Strategies as well as the Field Placement requirements.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Course	Hours
Student Success Strategies	20
Career Planning and Preparation - Level I	20
Digital Literacy for Professionals	40
Early Childhood Education Foundations	80
Fundamentals in Child Development Part I	80
Fundamentals in Child Development Part II	80
Legislation, Administration & Curriculum Frameworks	40
Health, Safety & Wellbeing for Children	40
Positive Child Guidance	80
Observation and Assessment	80
Prevention, Intervention and Reporting	40
Professional Wellness	40
Professional Development	40
Building Partnerships in ECE Setting	40
Curriculum Development & Design Part I	80
Curriculum Development & Design Part II	80
Children’s Literature	40
Math & Science for Young Children	40
Music & Movement	40
Children with Exceptionalities	40
Career Planning and Preparation - Level II	20
Field Placement	8 Weeks
TOTAL WEEKS	61

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Early Childhood Education

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Student Success Strategies

In this orientation module, emphasis is placed on thinking about achieving success from Day One. This module stresses the importance of developing non-technical skills to enhance personal, academic, and career success. This includes understanding learning styles and honing practical study skills, such as memory, reading, note-and test-taking techniques. Personal exercises will focus on teamwork, decision making and problem-solving skills, setting SMART goals and maintaining a positive attitude; techniques for managing change, stress and conflict will also be explored.

Career Planning and Preparation - Level I

This module introduces tools for planning and preparing for a successful job search, so that students can maintain a career-focused approach throughout their education program. Students will learn about the "Hidden" Job Market and ways to access it in their upcoming job search, how to research opportunities and network for industry contacts, and use appropriate etiquette when communicating with prospective employers. Students will identify their personal skills, values and preferences for the workplace, begin preparation of a professional resume and references, and organize proof documents for their career portfolio. Class discussions on various self-management topics introduced in Student Success Strategies will round out this module, which is a pre-requisite for Career Planning and Preparation - Part II.

Digital Literacy for Professionals

This course introduces students to the fundamental concepts and principles of learning and working in a digital environment. This course will cover the following elements: using devices and handling information, creating and editing information, communicating and collaborating, and being safe and responsible online.

Early Childhood Education Foundations

This course provides students with foundational understanding of the field of Early Childhood Education. Students will be introduced to the profession, the role and responsibilities of an Early Childhood Educator, as well as applicable legislation and curriculum frameworks required for working in a variety of early learning and care settings and with various age groups.

Fundamentals in Child Development Part I

This course examines child development from theoretical, genetic, and environmental perspectives. Students will study the cognitive/language, social, emotional, and physical domains of development, with a focus on developmental milestones from conception to toddlerhood.

Fundamentals in Child Development Part II

This course examines child development from theoretical, genetic, and environmental perspectives. Students will study the cognitive/language, social, emotional, and physical domains of development, with a focus on developmental milestones from preschool to age 8.

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Legislation, Administration & Curriculum Frameworks

This course familiarizes students with legislation governing the early childhood education sector, including administrative policies and procedures, the professional responsibilities of an ECE, as well as the roles of each tier of government. Students will also study the interconnectedness of legislation and curriculum frameworks and how to apply this concept in early learning and care settings.

Curriculum Development & Design Part I

This course will guide student understanding of curriculum development and design. Students will analyze and practice facilitating and evaluating children's learning through curriculum planning and design using emergent principles, developmental theories, and play-based pedagogy based on curriculum frameworks for individual children and groups of children. Students will learn how to design environments that support positive early learning experiences through exploration both indoors and outdoors for infants and toddlers.

Curriculum Development & Design Part II

This course will guide student understanding of curriculum development and design. Students will analyze and practice facilitating and evaluating children's learning through curriculum planning and design using emergent principles, developmental theories, and play-based pedagogy based on curriculum frameworks for individual children and groups of children. Students will learn how to design environments that support positive early learning experiences through exploration both indoors and outdoors for preschool and school age.

Health, Safety & Wellbeing for Children

This course studies the overall health of children, including nutrition, safety, and well-being from conception to school age. Students will understand their role in supporting health and safety in early learning and care environments as well as how to support well-being through inclusive, positive relationships and emotionally supportive environments. Various positive child guidance strategies that support children's sense of wellbeing and belonging will also be explored.

Prevention, Intervention and Reporting

This course will familiarize students with the legal and professional obligations of an Early Childhood Educator regarding child abuse, neglect, and domestic violence, with a focus on reporting procedures and working with families. Students will study prevention measures, intervention strategies as well as reporting policies and procedures in accordance with current legislation. Students will also focus on play therapies and child-focused interventions in the early learning setting.

Observation and Assessment

This course focuses on the utilization of various observation and assessment methods and tools for documenting children's learning and developmental progression across all domains. Students will analyze how to gather, interpret, and apply observation and assessment data to program planning. Observation and assessment of individual children and groups of children will be discussed, including information sharing and referrals with families.

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Positive Child Guidance

This course focuses on the role of the early childhood educator in guidance, discipline, and behaviour management. It highlights theories, models and skills related to promoting healthy social and emotional development at both the individual and group level.

Children's Literature

This course will study the design of literacy rich environments, including how to integrate language and literacy into all aspects of play-based program planning. Receptive and expressive language, writing and other graphical forms, as well as the reading of texts that are developmentally appropriate and of interest to the child from 0 to 12 years will be discussed.

Math & Science for Young Children

This course will study the design of mathematically rich environments, including how to integrate math concepts into all aspects of play-based program planning. Measuring, sorting, categorizing, one-to-one correspondence, patterning, comparing/contrasting, constructing, as well as counting and 2D and 3D shape recognition activities that are developmentally appropriate and of interest to the child from 0 to 12 years will be discussed.

Professional Wellness

This course will focus on the wellness of the Early Childhood Educator. Occupational health and safety will be studied, as well as strategies to overcome stress across all domains of the professional (physical, emotional, social, cognitive). A holistic view to professional wellness will be explored with an emphasis on self-care strategies that include health and nutrition practices. The student will understand the importance of maintaining good health to be an effective educator of young children and a productive team member.

Professional Development

This course will introduce the student to the concept of professional development. An emphasis will be on reflective practices, the role and responsibilities of the Early Childhood Educator, as well as the importance of plans for lifelong learning. Students will engage in self-reflection activities, practice strategies to remain current in their knowledge of the field, as well as how to maintain professional behaviours and relationships with children, families, colleagues, and the community. Within this course, students will complete their first aid and CPR training, in addition to their food safety training.

Music & Movement

This course will study the design of musically rich environments, including how to integrate music and movement concepts into all aspects of play-based program planning. Musical concepts such as melody, rhythm, and harmony will be explored as well as listening to music, creating music with voices and/or instruments, singing, dancing, and various other daily physical activities that are developmentally appropriate and of interest to the child from 0 to 12 years will be discussed.

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Children with Exceptionalities

This course is designed to develop an understanding of various disabilities. Emphasis is placed on the educator's role in planning for individual needs, while supporting the needs of the entire group in an inclusive environment. The focus is on using a team approach, with active family involvement to support the child with special needs in inclusive educational settings.

Building Partnerships in ECE Setting

Developing partnerships with families is an integral part of the 'family-centred' approach in early childhood education. This course studies various aspects of this developmentally appropriate practice by examining specific strategies for building effective partnerships such as: positive communication practices, supporting family involvement, and exploring ways to respond to the changing face of Canadian families. The increasing role of the educator within the community will also be examined.

Career Planning and Preparation - Level II

This module continues to build on the concepts and skills introduced in Career Planning and Preparation - Part I. Students will learn how to conduct an effective job search and identify various methods of applying for work with today's technology. Students will create a personal list of "Top Employers" and target current industry opportunities, while finalizing their professional resume, portfolio and career correspondence. Students will learn to identify the different types and forms of interviews, practice responding to typical questions, and practice follow-up, evaluation and negotiation techniques they can use to ensure success. Self-management topics from Career Planning and Preparation - Part I will be reviewed, with a focus towards on-the-job success in both learner placements and post-graduate employment.

ECE Field Placement

Through this course, the teacher-in-training will develop skills in presenting developmentally appropriate activities to young children, on both an individual and a group basis. Students are scheduled for field practicum in community placement settings. These supervised field work hours assist the student in practicing observation and teaching skills

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