



Course Description

EEC2401 | Family Interaction and Cultural Continuity through Literacy | 3.00 credits

The student will learn about how language and literacy practices help establish positive and productive relationships with the families and children in their classroom and program. The student will use literacy experiences to develop culturally responsive, trusting, supportive reciprocal relationships with young children, their families, and their communities. The student will understand how to promote cultural continuity in the early childhood (birth- age 5) setting through language and literacy practices.

Course Competencies

Competency 1: The students will identify theories that support early childhood educators in understanding families, culture, and language and literacy development by:

1. Defining family and discussing the various types of families
2. Defining culture and describing the connection between culture and society
3. Researching cultural theories and their importance
4. Researching norms, symbols, language in culture
5. Exploring values and beliefs of culture and the influence on child development, specifically language and literacy development
6. Examining how to maintain the home language and culture of the young child and family while learning a new language
7. Discussing how to honor the home culture of the young child and family
8. Explaining how honoring the home cultures of the families we work with can be used to increase vocabulary and comprehension skills in young children
9. Analyzing the benefits of learning more than one language
10. Evaluating the language learning skills that are universal and transferable among multiple languages

Competency 2: The student will examine the role of the environment and applying family and community literacy in supporting positive relationships with families by:

1. Explaining the need and reasons for literacy education for children and families
2. Describing effective family literacy programs
3. Demonstrating knowledge and engagement of the theoretical, pedagogical, and research issues in family literacy
4. Analyzing the implications of theory and research for family literacy
5. Critiquing research on family literacy
6. Identifying the benefits of connecting family, community, and schools
7. Analyzing strategies for increasing family and community involvement in schools
8. Describing specific elements of partnership programming that can improve student learning
9. Examining the importance of family and community literacy as an inclusive teaching strategy and program pillar
10. Evaluating the role schools and communities play in the literate lives of children
11. Discussing how successful partnerships with schools and community agencies can be formed

Competency 3: The student will utilize growth mindset and habits of mind skills to increase family engagement and draw upon family's assets and interests by:

1. Discussing how teachers can create classrooms that are reflective of the cultures of the children they teach, so that children and families are represented and comfortable
2. Describing concrete approaches for increasing mindfulness and emotional health within your family and the families in your classroom community and using bibliotherapy in helping individuals grow and develop through books and stories
3. Using children's literature to meaningfully discuss the following topics with young children: parenting styles, types of families, gender, LGBTQIA resources, race, ethnicity, culture, language, and any other

topic that is representative of the family and their experiences

4. Evaluating how storytelling, oral traditions, reading aloud and giving children dramatic play experiences can provide an opportunity to work through grief, cope with a difficult situation, or explore developmentally- appropriate topics

Competency 4: The student will analyze strategies for building trusting and reciprocal relationships with families founded in language and literacy practices by:

1. Defining family-centered practice
2. Identifying language literacy practices that already exist within the home and community to inform teaching strategies and curriculum design
3. Describing effective strategies for families to foster their child's literacy skills in the home
4. Researching families' oral language and literacy practices in multiple cultural contexts
5. Discussing the benefits and barriers to successful family/school partnerships
6. Examining effective communication strategies with families
7. Evaluating resources in family involvement and family literacy

Learning Outcomes:

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information
- Create strategies that can be used to fulfill personal, civic, and social responsibilities