



Teachers' Resource Centre
Early Childhood Education and Development
A Professional Development Programme for Early Years' Teachers
Course Descriptions

History and Philosophy: This course is designed to explore the concept and image of childhood, to examine the varied influences that have made ECE what it is today, and to look at the life history of different philosophers who have had timeless influence on the vision of education. The content of this course will walk you through an exploration of the historically diverse ways in which childhood has been defined, and help you develop and clarify your own concept of childhood. Emphasis will be placed on assisting you towards forming an understanding that there is no single set of ideas about *Early Childhood Education*.

Professional Practices: This course will focus on the professional development goals of an ECE educator. The students will become aware of the professional responsibilities and practices of the ECE educator, and be able to recognize, analyze, implement and enhance ECE quality indicators within the context of Pakistani schools.

Child Development: This course focuses on the developmental characteristics of the child from pre-birth to eight years of age. All aspects of development and an introduction to the major theoretical positions that explain development will be examined. Throughout this course the students will have an opportunity to critically analyze the various components of a theoretical and practical perspectives on child development. They will also examine the overall effectiveness and efficiency of their understanding of child development in terms of its practical application to child reading and education.

Learning Environment: During this course, the students will examine various early childhood program environments. They will learn about designing, developing, maintaining and practicing in indoor and outdoor environments.

Curriculum Methods: This course will educate students on different pedagogical approaches and curriculums taught in the early years' settings across the world. It will help students to explore curriculums and understand the merit of each method as well as allow them to adopt, plan and implement a developmentally appropriate curriculum. They will also have the opportunity to examine the Early Childhood Education National Curriculum Document and analyse it in the light of other curriculums.

Play Experiences: This course will focus on the value of play. It will help you understand the role adults play in facilitating active learning, in a pre-primary and early primary environment. The course will be based on principle of developmentally appropriate practices with an emphasis on the national curriculum for ECE (Moe, GoP, 2007). The students will acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to plan and implement child centered play experiences.

Language and Literacy in Early Years: This course focuses on the developmental characteristics of the child from birth to eight years in language domain. Throughout the course, the students will discover the deep connection between language development and other domains of development. They will also learn about strategies that enhance and support strong language and literacy development in the early years.

Promoting Positive Behaviour: In this course you will learn how to promote positive social relationships in early childhood classrooms. The goal of this course is to develop awareness of the elements that promote healthy social-emotional development in young children, through an examination of theories and techniques of interpersonal relationships.

Observation and Assessment: During this course the students will examine the importance of observation as it applies to the daily practice of the early childhood teacher. Examples of topics to be explored include the significance of observation; observation techniques; interpretation of recorded data; and objectivity and subjectivity in observation of children.

Health, Nutrition and Safety: Through this course, students will understand the importance of creating and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for children. The main components of this course will be nutrition, safety, hygiene, and environment friendly practices. The students will also have the opportunity to examine their own attitudes toward these aspects and understand the importance of each aspect in children's holistic development. This course explains how good nutrition and a safe, clean, green environment are inter-linked with children's overall health and well-being.

Field Education (school based practice): This course is the bridge between theory and practice and will help students to implement their learning from the ECED course at their workplace. They will be provided with an opportunity to increase awareness of effective teaching styles and to implement developmentally appropriate practices in their classroom.