Building Cultural Connections
A training offered by the Early Childhood Resource and Training Center (ECRTC) & Minnesota Child Care Resource and Referrals

Metropolitan State University's Early Childhood Assessment Program has partnered with the Early Childhood Resource and Training Center to provide students who have participated in the Building Cultural Connections training the opportunity to earn college credit.

The Credits and How You Can Use Them

These credits can be used to meet the Minnesota educational requirements for an assistant teacher or teacher working in licensed child care programs, the continuing education requirements of licensed teachers, or toward the degree requirements of 2-year or 4-year colleges.

At Metropolitan State University the credits can be used to meet: 1) General Education and Liberal Studies (GELS) Requirements including Goal V: History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences, 2) Electives - most majors have room for about 20 elective credits, and 3) Major Requirements if your major is related to early childhood (check with your academic advisor). However, you do not need to be a degree seeking student at Metropolitan State University to earn credits for Building Cultural Connections.

Steps to Earning Credit

The steps to earn Metropolitan State University credits are simple, but each step is important and necessary to complete. One credit for Building Cultural Connections can be earned after attending the training (six hour workshop or all Building Cultural Connections modules) and successfully completing the written assignments.

Step 1: Fill out Part A of the Quick Start Registration Form.
Complete Part A of the Quick Start Registration form available at www.metrostate.edu/ecap. Print or write today's date, your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and social security number (optional). We would also appreciate it if you would complete the survey requesting student information.

Step 2: Complete the written assignments.

Only complete these assignments if you have not previously received college credit for this subject.

Assignment #1 - Identify a child you work with, or a child you are familiar with. Once you have identified a child, list specific examples of the WHAT, HOW, and WHY of the child’s culture. Explain how understanding all aspects of children’s culture assists you in working with children. (1 page minimum)

Assignment #2 - Acknowledge, Ask, Adapt is a method of resolving conflict and gaining common understanding. Explain the basic principles of Acknowledge, Ask, Adapt using a scenario for your child care setting or life experience. (1 page minimum)

Assignment #3 - Write a one page reaction to the Video, “Prejudice is a Big Word: For Little Kids.” This video is also available at the Early Childhood Resource and Training Center (ECRTC).
**Assignment #4** - It is important to talk to children about all aspects of human difference including: race, gender, ability, religion, socio-economic status and so many others. How can a child care provider make children comfortable talking about differences? Give specific examples. (Examples to use and expand; types of games, posters, music…etc.) (1 page minimum)

**Assignment #5** - After participating in the Building Cultural Connections training, what will you do differently in your childcare center or family child care? Please submit an implementation plan using the concepts learned at the workshop. (1 page minimum)

**Step 3: Make copies of your training certificates.**

**Step 4: Mail in this form, the Quick Start Registration form, all 5 assignments, copies of your training certificates, and a $25 payment (checks made out to Metropolitan State University) to:**

Early Childhood Assessment Coordinator  
Psychology Department, Suite 101  
Metropolitan State University  
1450 Energy Park Drive  
St. Paul, MN 55108

By submitting your assignments, you are indicating that you have not previously received college credit for this subject at any college or university. Metropolitan State University's Early Childhood Assessment Program follows the Council of Adult and Experiential Learning guidelines that state: *Prior learning must be independent from credits previously transcripted at other institutions of higher education.*

**Grading**

After we receive all of your documents, your learning evaluation will be submitted to the Metropolitan State University registration and grades office. The grade will be posted on the student’s transcript as an “S”, competence satisfactorily completed, or “NC”, no competence unsatisfactory work. Please note that Metropolitan State University does not mail grades to students. If you need a copy of your grades or transcript call the Records Office Transcript Help Line at 651-793-1233 or visit http://www.metrostate.edu/registration/records.html.

**Cost**

Through this program you pay $25.00 per credit. This program is supported by a grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services in partnership with Metropolitan State University to promote professional development, career pathways, and higher education access for Minnesota early childhood professionals. Students not admitted in a degree program are eligible for up to 4 credits.

**Where do I get more information?**

For more information about the Early Childhood Assessment Program, visit our website at www.metrostate.edu/ecap or call Charlotte Nitardy, Early Childhood Assessment Coordinator, at (651) 999-5824 or e-mail: charlotte.nitardy@metrostate.edu. For more information about the Building Cultural Connections training, contact the Early Childhood Resource and Training Center or your local Child Care Resource and Referral agency.