Planning Activities to Meet Children’s Needs

Course Description:
This course provides an overview of planning activities designed to meet children’s needs. Students will explore the adult role in planning appropriate experiences designed to advance children’s physical, intellectual, creative and language competence.

Course Structure –Organizational Overview:
This course will total 10 contact hours and be offered in 4 – 2.5 hour sessions.

Course Objectives:
1) Students will examine the adult role in providing experiences designed to promote physical, intellectual, creative and communication skills in young children.
2) Students will review their knowledge of child development to determine appropriate activities focusing on advancing children’s physical and intellectual development.
3) Students will describe how to use materials in their programs, both indoors and outdoors to promote physical activity.
4) Students will identify materials and activities that provide opportunities for children to develop their cognitive/intellectual abilities.
5) Students will examine ways to promote children’s communication by providing materials and activities that develop language and literacy skills.
6) Students will identify ways they can encourage children’s creative thinking.

Course Materials/ Text:
Instructor Texts: Caring for Children in Family Child Care – Volume 1 and 2
Caring for Infants and Toddlers – Volume 1 and 2
Caring for Preschool Children – Volume 1 and 2
Student Packets each contain a pre-assessment, content reading and program evaluation exercises for each of the following topic areas:
Module 4 – Physical
Module 5–Cognitive
Module 6 – Communication
Module 7: Creative

Course Outline:
Class 1: Advancing Children’s Physical Development
Class 2: Advancing Children’s Cognitive Development
Class 3: Advancing Children’s Communication Skills
Class 4: Advancing Children’s Creativity
Class 1: **Advancing Children’s Physical Development**  
*Objective:* Students will focus on adult’s role, planning appropriate activities and selecting materials to promote children’s physical development.  
1) Focus on ways to reinforce and encourage physical development through appropriate environment, activities and interactions. Include importance of self-care for adults taking care of young children.  
2) Have class complete the pre-training assessment for Module 4: Physical (assessment form included in text and learning packet).  
3) Present a variety of activities designed to promote children’s physical development with an emphasize on appropriate activities for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school age children.

Class 2: **Advancing Children’s Cognitive Development**  
*Objective:* Students will focus on adult’s role, planning appropriate activities and selecting materials to promote children’s cognitive/intellectual development.  
1) Focus on ways to provide opportunities for exploration, and the development of new concepts and skills. Include basic theorists influences of Piaget and Vygotsky.  
2) Have class complete the pre-training assessment for Module 5: Cognitive (assessment form included in the text and learning packet).  
3) Present a variety of activities focusing on ways to develop cognitive learning for infants, toddlers, preschool and school age children.

Class 3: **Advancing Children’s Communication Skills**  
*Objective:* Students will focus on adult’s role, planning appropriate activities and selecting materials to promote children’s communication skills.  
1) Focus on how students can use their knowledge of child development to promote communication and language skills.  
2) Have class complete the pre-training assessment for Module 6: Communication (assessment form included in the text and learning packet).  
3) Present a variety of activities designed to promote communication and literacy skills with young children. Clarify activities appropriate for infant, toddlers, preschoolers and school age children.

Class 4: **Advancing Children’s Creativity**  
*Objective:* Students will focus on the adult’s role in planning appropriate activities and selecting materials to promote children’s creativity.  
1) Focus on the concept of creativity in all areas of the curriculum with a specific focus on art, dramatic play, music and movement to promote creativity.  
2) Have the class complete the pre-training assessment for Module 7: Creative. (assessment form included in the text and learning packet).  
3) Present a variety of art, dramatic play, music and movement activities appropriate to use with infant, toddlers and school age children.
**College Credit option:**
Students taking the class for credit will develop an activity that can be used in their programs.

**Assignment #1** - Plan and present a total of 4 activities – 1 activity or learning material for each skill area – physical, intellectual, creative and language – to the children in your program. Submit the activity plan or learning material and a self-critique of the activity or material to the instructor.

**Assignment #2** - Using the Assessing Your Environment for Literacy, evaluate your program, home or classroom for literacy rich materials.