

EARLY CHILDHOOD COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Practical Life

This course includes the philosophy and rationale of Practical Life including the areas of; Analysis and Control of Movement, Care of Self, Care of the Environment, Grace and Courtesy, and Food Preparation. Adult learners will gain knowledge in subject content, material design, practice with the materials, and analyze practical life activities. All topics include consideration of culturally responsive and relevant practical life experiences. Teaching methods include the presentation of materials, discussion, small group activities, practice and analysis of materials, and album preparation.

Sensorial

This course includes the philosophy and rationale of the Sensorial curriculum. Concepts, such as materials, aiding the education and refinement of the senses, preparation for mathematical thinking, visual dimension, and visual form are covered. Adult learners will compare, contrast, sort, categorize, and recognize the relationship between items, adding relevant language, in context. Understanding the importance of the refinement of all senses is the foundation of this course, with consideration of diverse and culturally rich sensorial experiences. Adult learners will experience and create sensory activities and extend realistic sensory experiences in the cultural area. The structure of the course will include lectures and demonstrations of lessons, readings and discussion, practice of materials, and album preparation.

Language

This course covers the philosophy and rationale of language development for the 2.5- 6-year-old child. Topics include oral language development, expressive and receptive language, visual and auditory reception, reasoning skills, vocabulary development and enrichment, reading, writing, creative expression, children's literature, and dramatic expression. Also included are the moveable alphabet, phonetics, and storytelling, all with a connection to diverse cultures and their society. The structure of the course will include lectures and demonstrations of lessons, readings and discussion, practice of materials, and album preparation.

Math

The course focuses on the philosophy and rationale of mathematics and the development of the mathematical mind. The content of the course includes an introduction to numeration, qualitative games, symbol and quantity, the decimal system and its functions, linear counting,

memorization of basic math facts, operations fractions, and application of concepts. Special topics, such as time, money, and measurement are also included. Awareness of diverse mathematical perspectives and attention to bias in mathematical presentations will be discussed. The structure of the course will include lectures and demonstrations of lessons, readings, and discussions, the practice of materials, and album preparation.

Physical and Life Sciences

This course is designed to give adult learners the philosophy and rationale that includes a global perspective toward botany, zoology, earth elements, and physical science. Sequential lessons and materials needed for preparing science materials in the early childhood environment will be shown. The course includes external parts of plants and animals, their biomes and characteristics, the exploration of physical sciences, and simple experiments. The structure of the course will include lectures and demonstrations of lessons, readings, and discussions, the practice of materials, and album preparation.

Social Studies

The course focus is on the philosophy and rationale of teaching social studies to children ages 3-6 according to the Montessori philosophy. Three areas of concentration are history, physical geography (globes, puzzle maps, landforms), and cultural geography, with an emphasis on diverse cultures and peoples of the earth. History includes time, calendar, seasons, and personal history. The structure of the course will include lectures and demonstrations of lessons, readings, and discussions, the practice of materials, and album preparation.

Classroom Leadership

This course will include topics of management skills and community building within the 3-6 class. Adult learners will learn skills to prepare a culturally responsive environment, develop daily and weekly schedules, evaluate children with equity, and develop assessments and recordkeeping, including responsive and relevant techniques for communication, discipline, and problem-solving. Understanding human tendencies and the needs of both children and families in regard to a full-day program will be covered. Understanding issues related to school administration and professional relationships will be looked at through a lens of multi-culture and diversity in all forms. The structure of the course will include lectures and individual and group projects.

Montessori Philosophy

The focus of this course is on principles of the Montessori philosophy as found in the primary works of Maria Montessori and how they relate to the child from birth through 6 in relation to Montessori philosophy, materials, guide, and the environment. Montessori's view of the child, the rights of the child, and the place of children in society in relation to equity and justice,

identity development, and identity validation using culturally responsive methods. Scientific analysis of how to nurture and assist the unfolding of the human personality with respect to diverse cultures and awareness of anti-bias and an antiracist lens is an important aspect of this course. Positive communication with emphasis on personal development and consideration of anti-biased, antiracist language will be covered. Peace education is also a focus of this course. Course delivery includes online content, Zoom meetings, videos, recorded lectures, and small group projects and presentations.

Observation

The essential techniques of observation and recording are the focus of this course. Adult learners will develop the skills needed to observe children objectively, using a variety of methods such as observation types, tools, forms, and techniques. Also included are guided practice, case studies, school visits, and discussions on self-awareness of personal biases and perspectives.

Child Development

This course serves as a study of basic theories of child development according to the major contemporary child developmentalists. Stages of development related to the social, emotional, physical, cognitive, and spiritual growth of the 3 -6-year-old child are examined along with current research. Also included is the developmental impact of bias, racism, and trauma on young children and developmental differences. Course delivery includes online content, Zoom meetings, videos, recorded lectures, and small group projects and presentations.

Art

This course is designed to give adult learners the tools they need to incorporate art into every area of their early childhood curriculum regardless of their prior experience. Creating a cultural experience across the curriculum serves as a strong foundation for appreciation of techniques and style. Adult learners explore several basic techniques, art mediums, and art history. Creating art samples is also a part of this course.

Music

This course is designed to give adult learners the tools they need to incorporate music into every area of their early childhood curriculum regardless of their prior experience. Creating a cultural experience across the curriculum serves as a strong foundation for this course. Adult learners will learn about areas of music, such as; rhythm, singing, instrumental skills, and music appreciation.

Movement

Through participation in group exercises and discussion, students will develop an understanding of the way movement is essential to the development of the child. The students will expand their

knowledge of how to direct children through a variety of physical activities that are relevant, meaningful, and enjoyable and promote coordinated movement, flexibility, and creative movement.

Family Involvement

Adult learners will learn the importance of family and school as a partnership, the need for mutual trust and respect, skills in communication, the need and opportunities for parent education, and skills for sharing information and offering practical help to parents. Course delivery includes online content, Zoom meetings, videos, recorded lectures, small group projects, and presentations.

Practicum Seminar and Year-Long Project

The Practicum seminars focus on the practicum phase of working in the classroom and discuss the purpose and details of meeting the requirements during the practicum phase of the training process. The requirement includes 540 hours of classroom experience to be fulfilled by working in a Montessori classroom for a minimum of 3 hours per day (during the work cycle), 5 days per week, over 9 consecutive months in the same classroom.

The Practicum phase also includes the yearlong projects, reflective journals, observations, transformation of the adult, preparation of the environment, curriculum design, and other assignments that are assigned throughout the courses of this program level. A minimum of 3 field visits are conducted by field consultants from PCTE, who will observe you in your classroom during your teaching time. Additional mentorship and visits may be required, depending on the Practicum model, experience, and circumstances.