

Module Synopses

Semester One

1. Early Childhood Education and Child Development

This module provides students with the philosophical and historical perspectives of early childhood education as well the various approaches adopted by early childhood education. It aims to provide the students with the knowledge of how children aged 4 to 6 years of age develop physically, cognitively and socio-emotionally and how development affects learning during this period. In addition, this module will provide an overview of early childhood education.

2. Safety, Health, Hygiene and Nutrition

This module highlights the role of the early childhood educator in providing a suitable environment for the care and safety of children. It introduces the students to an understanding of common childhood illnesses and how to respond to them. They will also learn how best to manage daily routines (e.g. meals, arrival and departure, self-care, etc.) and handle common accidents as well as emergencies. Students are provided with some pointers on understanding and detecting child abuse and neglect. They are also required to be trained in basic first aid.

3. Creating and Managing the Learning Environment

This module aims to provide students with skills to create and organise the environment for learning in an early childhood education setting. They will learn ways of setting up appropriate learning centres to promote physical, intellectual, emotional and social development. They will also be presented with strategies for communication with children for effective teaching in a classroom setting as well as for management and guidance of children's behaviour.

4. Language Skills

This module introduces students to the conceptual framework for designing and developing activities which would equip young learners with basic reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. Students will also be trained in the fundamental knowledge of identifying suitable literature for reading activities. The module also aims to equip students with appropriate strategies to develop in young learners a deep appreciation for a variety of children's literature through the use of print media and audio books

5. Numeracy Skills

This module aims to provide students with the strategies for facilitating development of mathematical concepts in an authentic context. Students will learn how to develop manipulatives and use authentic resources to provide concrete and hands-on experiences for young learners. Students will also be equipped with the knowledge and skills to promote fine motor, problem solving and social skills in kindergarten children through block play and math activities.

6. Aesthetics and Motor Skills

This module equips students with ways to develop in young learners, perceptual, fine and gross motor skills as well as an appreciation for aesthetics through art, music, dance and play. Students will learn to design appropriate activities for indoor and outdoor play. In addition, students will also learn to create opportunities for creative expression among young learners through art and craft activities. This module will expose students to a repertoire of art media, music and dance forms.

7. Teaching Practicum I

This module provides students with an avenue for acquiring beginning teacher competencies. Students will have opportunities to become involved with and actively participate in all aspects of classroom teaching. Through hands-on experience and learning journeys, students will learn to connect theory with practice and acquire the skills necessary for teaching effectively in a range of classroom situations. In addition they would also develop a reflective approach to understanding their role as a professional in the classroom setting.

In Teaching Practicum I, in particular, students will be guided and assessed in their ability to facilitate learners in large group teaching situations.

Semester Two

8. Individual Differences in Learning

This module familiarises students with the vast individual differences in learning among young children. It introduces the students to both children with special needs as well as gifted children in relation to their learning needs. Socio-cultural differences that affect development and learning will also be discussed in this module.

9. Assessment, Intervention and Evaluation

This module trains students to make effective and timely observations for assessment of learning during the early years as well as appraisal of children's behaviour. They will also be guided in early intervention for children who are assessed to be lacking in certain skills, thus making these children ready for school.

10. Environment and Social Awareness

This module aims to equip students with the fundamental knowledge and teaching approaches that are used to enhance a young learner's appreciation of the environment and social development. Students will learn how to use science activities, sand and water play experiences with a view to creating opportunities for young learners to experiment, understand nature, interact socially as well as develop sensory and math concepts. Students will learn how to develop early learners' creative and thinking skills using experiential methods.

11. Programme Planning and Resources

This module aims to train students to plan for learning experiences, such that these experiences are developmentally and culturally appropriate for early learning programmes. To achieve this effectively, students will be provided with opportunities to plan and implement lessons for children in kindergartens. In developing lessons, students will be taught ways of designing and deploying environmentally friendly resources, including recycled materials, non-print resources and creative print, media and other materials for displays. They will also be introduced to the use of information communication technology (ICT) as an effective learning and teaching tool.

12. Partnership with Families and Communities

This module exposes students to the multicultural society in Singapore and the need to respect diversity in such a society. They will gain an understanding of issues and problems faced by families in a multicultural society and strategies for working with families and engaging parents on early childhood education.

13. Independent Study Project

The independent study project provides students with an opportunity to explore a particular aspect of early childhood education that is of interest to them. It requires the students to identify and explore various elements within their area of interest, concerning the early years' curriculum and setting. The students will be guided to refine their investigation such that they acquire in-depth knowledge of the chosen topic through critical analysis.

14. Personal Growth and Professional Development

This module aims to raise the awareness of the responsibilities and code of conduct for teachers through greater self-awareness and reflection. It also highlights the need for collaboration and partnership with peers. Students are exposed to ways of accessing and networking with the community for resources. Finally, students would be encouraged to plan for continuing professional development.

15. Teaching Practicum II

This module provides students with an avenue for acquiring beginning teacher competencies. Students will have opportunities to become involved with and actively participate in all aspects of classroom teaching. Through hands-on experience and learning journeys, students will learn to connect theory with practice and acquire the skills necessary for teaching effectively in a range of classroom situations. In addition they would also develop a reflective approach to understanding their role as a professional in the classroom setting.

In Teaching Practicum II, in particular, students will be guided and assessed on their ability to set up and facilitate learners in learning centres.