



ECHX603

Early Childhood Professional Practice 1

S2 OUA 2019

Department of Educational Studies

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Belinda Davis

belinda.davis@mq.edu.au

Contact via iLearn Dialogue

29WW 261

Prerequisites

(ECEX600 or ECHX600) and (ECEX601 or ECHX601) and (ECEX602 or ECHX602)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit incorporates both specialist theory and practice in early childhood education by combining university based study with practical teaching experience in an early childhood setting. The 20-day practical experience component is based on a sound understanding that students will be operating at a level reasonably expected of a postgraduate student teacher undertaking a block of professional experience as a teacher of young children for the first time. Unit content will focus on examining and reflecting on the student's role in teaching and learning with young children from birth to two years. All enrolment queries should be directed to Open Universities Australia (OUA): see www.open.edu.au

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.open.edu.au/student-admin-and-support/key-dates/>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- Understand a variety of approaches in curriculum decision making
- Understand the professional environment of early childhood teaching
- Identify the factors that influence curriculum decision making processes
- Facilitate appropriate experiences for children within the total learning environment
- Critically evaluate teaching practices
- Appreciate the value of an anti-bias approach in work with children and their families
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the reflective practitioner.

General Assessment Information

Family and Children's Records

Some assessment tasks require students to submit records about families and about children and their learning. It is expected that the records submitted are original, authentic, adheres to the ethical practices of the [Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics \(2016\)](#) and is the work of the student. Please note that submitted records can only be used once for assessment purposes.

Confidentiality

Students must respect the need for sensitivity and confidentiality and ensure that privacy obligations are met. There should be nothing in assessment submissions that identifies a centre or school. Use only the first name for children, parents and staff. Do not record details that enable identification of the site, and of the adults or children.

Assessment Presentation & Submission Guidelines

Please follow these guidelines when you submit each assignment:

- Allow a left and right-hand margin of at least 2cm in all assignments.
- Please type all assignments using 12-point font and 1.5 spacing.
- All assessments must be submitted through turnitin in .doc or .pdf format for submission.
- Faculty assignment cover sheets are NOT required for this unit.

When preparing your assignments, it is essential that:

- Students must retain a copy of all assignments before submission, and retain the copy until your final grade for the subject has been received;
- Marks will be deducted if you submit your assessment late (refer to the 'late assessments' section below for more details);
- Unless there are exceptional circumstances, no assessment will be accepted after the date that the assessment has been returned to other students.
- If an assessment is considered to be below passing standard, another staff member on the unit will provide a second opinion. No failed assessment may be re-submitted.

Final Submissions

- Students are responsible for checking that their submission has been successful and has been submitted by the due date and time.
- Late submissions due to last minute technical difficulties will incur a lateness penalty

Extensions and Late Penalties:

Applications for extensions must be made via AskMQ at <https://ask.mq.edu.au> as a "Special Consideration" request before the submission date. Students who experience a disruption to their studies through ill-health or misadventure are able to apply for this request. *Extensions can*

only be granted if they meet the Disruption to Studies policy and are submitted via ask.mq.edu.au. This will ensure consistency in the consideration of such requests is maintained.

In general, there should be no need for extensions except through illness or misadventure that would be categorised as unavoidable disruption according to the University definition of same, and currently available at:

<https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration/disruption-to-studies>

Late submissions without extension will receive a penalty of 5% reduction of the total possible mark for each day late (including weekends and public holidays). Late penalties are applied by unit convenors or their delegates after tasks are assessed.

No assessable work will be accepted after the return/release of marked work on the same topic.

Students should keep an electronic file of all assessments. Claims regarding "lost" assessments cannot be made if the file cannot be produced. It is also advisable to keep an electronic file of all drafts and the final submission on a USB untouched/unopened after submission. This can be used to demonstrate easily that the assessment has not been amended after the submission date.

Requesting a remark of an assignment

If you have **evidence** that your task has been incorrectly assessed against the grade descriptors you can request a re-mark. To request a re-mark you need to contact the unit convenor within **7 days** of the date of return of the assignment and provide **a detailed assessment of your script against the task criteria**. Evidence from your assignment must be provided to support your judgements.

Note: Failed assessments can not be re-submitted as they are all double-marked as a part of the moderation process.

Please note: The outcome of a re-mark may be a **higher/lower or unchanged grade**. Grades are *standards referenced* and effort is NOT a criterion.

Academic Honesty Guidelines

All assignments should cite and provide full bibliographical details of all material that you have used to inform or support your ideas. At the Department of Educational Studies, students are required to use the American Psychological Association (APA) referencing procedures. Full details about how to cite and reference correctly can be found in **Perrin (2017)** and on the **university's library website** at <https://libguides.mq.edu.au/referencing/APA> .

The following guide can be purchased from the Co-op Bookshop. This is a recommended text. A copy is also available in Reserve in the Library:

Perrin, R. (2017). *Pocket guide to APA style* (6th ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Assessment 1	30%	No	16/08/19
Assessment 2	40%	No	6/09/19
Assessment 3	0%	Yes	See iLearn
Assessment 3A	10%	No	8/11/19
Assessment 3B	10%	No	8/11/19
Assessment 3C	10%	No	8/11/19

Assessment 1

Due: **16/08/19**

Weighting: **30%**

Understanding Techniques for Teaching

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically evaluate teaching practices
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the reflective practitioner.

Assessment 2

Due: **6/09/19**

Weighting: **40%**

Collections with Young Children

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify the factors that influence curriculum decision making processes
- Appreciate the value of an anti-bias approach in work with children and their families
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the reflective practitioner.

Assessment 3

Due: **See iLearn**

Weighting: **0%**

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

Professional Experience (Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory)

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand a variety of approaches in curriculum decision making
- Understand the professional environment of early childhood teaching
- Identify the factors that influence curriculum decision making processes
- Facilitate appropriate experiences for children within the total learning environment
- Appreciate the value of an anti-bias approach in work with children and their families
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the reflective practitioner.

Assessment 3A

Due: **8/11/19**

Weighting: **10%**

Evaluations of Teaching Techniques

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically evaluate teaching practices
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the reflective practitioner.

Assessment 3B

Due: **8/11/19**

Weighting: **10%**

Documenting Children's Learning – Reflections on Collections with Young Children

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand a variety of approaches in curriculum decision making
- Identify the factors that influence curriculum decision making processes
- Facilitate appropriate experiences for children within the total learning environment
- Critically evaluate teaching practices
- Appreciate the value of an anti-bias approach in work with children and their families
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the reflective practitioner.

Assessment 3C

Due: **8/11/19**

Weighting: **10%**

Documenting Children's Learning – Excerpts from Professional Experience

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand a variety of approaches in curriculum decision making
- Understand the professional environment of early childhood teaching
- Identify the factors that influence curriculum decision making processes
- Facilitate appropriate experiences for children within the total learning environment
- Critically evaluate teaching practices
- Appreciate the value of an anti-bias approach in work with children and their families
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the reflective practitioner.

Delivery and Resources

Relevant Documents

The information in this *Unit Guide* must be read in conjunction with the following document available for download from iLearn:

- *Professional Experience Guide*

Electronic Communication

During semester time, staff may contact students using the following ways:

- *Dialogue* function on iLearn
- Official *MQ Student Email* Address

It is the student's responsibility to check all electronic communication on a regular weekly basis.

Professional Experience Unit Academic Expectations

- Internal students are expected to read weekly readings before attending workshops
- All assessment tasks must be submitted
- Feedback from Tertiary Supervisors and/or Supervising Teachers is of a general nature. It is incumbent on the student to check the requirements of assessments against the marking criteria and unit outcomes prior to submission.
- **In order to meet all expectations for this unit, students must:**
 - attain an overall minimum of a Pass grade for the written submission components, **AND**
 - attain a 'Satisfactory' grade for their Professional Experience Evaluation Report

Professional Experience Unit Placement Expectations

- Students are required to complete 20 days of Professional Experience at an early childhood centre with children aged birth-3 years
- To be eligible to commence the block placement component of this unit, students
 - Must have submitted all written assessment tasks and/or associated unit

component requirements prior to the commencement of the block

- Students must be able to present evidence of completion of the following prior to semester census date in order to receive a placement for Professional Experience:
 - A Working with Children Check or State/ Territory equivalent
- Students are expected to negotiate with the supervising teacher to complete five (5) observation days prior to the block
- **In order to meet the Professional Experience placement expectations of this unit, students must:**
 - attain a 'Satisfactory' grade for their Professional Experience Practical Work in their Evaluation Report, **AND**
 - attain a 'Satisfactory' grade for their Professional Experience Folder in their Evaluation Report

Withdrawing from this PG Unit

If you are considering withdrawing from this unit, please seek academic advice by writing to des.pg@mq.edu.au before doing so as this unit may be a prerequisite for units in the following semesters and may impact on your progression through the degree.

Required Textbooks

These texts can be purchased from the Co-op Bookshop on campus or <http://www.coop.com.au>

MacNaughton, G. & Williams, G. (2009). *Techniques for teaching young children: Choices in theory and practice*. (3rd ed.). NSW: Pearson Education.

Suggested Texts

This eTextbook can be purchased from Mia Mia Child & Family Study Centre. Please complete the order form located at http://iec.mq.edu.au/research/mia_mia/publications_and_resources/ and email to e-press.miamia@mq.edu.au to place your order.

Mia Mia Child & Family Study Centre. (2014). *Play and materials for children birth to two years*. Sydney: Macquarie University.

Policies and Procedures

Late Submission - applies unless otherwise stated elsewhere in the unit guide

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late

submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

Extension Request

Special Consideration Policy and Procedure **(<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration>)**

The University recognises that students may experience events or conditions that adversely affect their academic performance. If you experience serious and unavoidable difficulties at exam time or when assessment tasks are due, you can consider applying for Special Consideration.

You need to show that the circumstances:

1. were serious, unexpected and unavoidable
2. were beyond your control
3. caused substantial disruption to your academic work
4. substantially interfered with your otherwise satisfactory fulfilment of the unit requirements
5. lasted at least three consecutive days or a total of 5 days within the teaching period and prevented completion of an assessment task scheduled for a specific date.

If you feel that your studies have been impacted submit an application as follows:

1. Visit [Ask MQ](#) and use your OneID to log in
2. Fill in your relevant details
3. Attach supporting documents by clicking 'Add a reply', click 'Browse' and navigating to the files you want to attach, then click 'Submit Form' to send your notification and supporting documents
4. Please keep copies of your original documents, as they may be requested in the future as part of the assessment process

Outcome

Once your submission is assessed, an appropriate outcome will be organised.

OUA Specific Policies and Procedures

Withdrawal from a unit after the census date

You can withdraw from your subjects prior to [the census date](#) (last day to withdraw). If you successfully withdraw before the census date, you won't need to apply for Special

Circumstances. If you find yourself unable to withdraw from your subjects before the census date - you might be able to [apply for Special Circumstances](#). If you're eligible, we can refund your fees and overturn your fail grade.

If you're studying Single Subjects using FEE-HELP or paying up front, you can [apply online](#).

If you're studying a degree using HECS-HELP, you'll need to [apply directly to Macquarie University](#).

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the policies listed in the Unit Guide with regard to Learning and Teaching. For this Unit, students must also be aware of the following specific requirements: - Students must meet the mandatory requirements to undertake placements as specified in this/the Unit Guide. These may include both University requirements and mandatory requirements specified by the accrediting authority such as the Working with Children check.

- Macquarie University operates under a 'Fit to Sit' model as specified in the University's [Special Consideration Policy](#). For this Unit, this means that, when undertaking a placement, a student is declaring that they are fit to do so. It is the responsibility of the student to determine whether they are fit to undertake a placement. Therefore, if a student is feeling unfit to undertake a placement, they should not do so. - If a Student is identified by the Unit Convenor as being 'At Risk', the [Department's 'At Risk' procedure](#) will be activated and they will not be able to withdraw themselves from this Unit.

- The timing of placements can vary. For placements early in the Session, Fail grades may be approved by the University **prior to the end** of Session for students who do not meet the placement expectations of the Unit.

University policy on grading

Criteria for awarding grades for assessment tasks

Assignments will be awarded grades ranging from HD to F according to guidelines set out in the University's Grading Policy. The following descriptive criteria are included for your information.

Note: If you fail a unit with a professional experience component the fail grade will be on your transcript irrespective of the timing of when the placement takes place.

Criteria for awarding grades in the unit

Students will be awarded grades ranging from HD to F according to guidelines set out in the policy: <https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/assessment-in-effect-from-session-2-2016>

The following generic grade descriptors provide university-wide standards for awarding final grades.

Grade	Descriptor
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HD (High Distinction)	Provides consistent evidence of deep and critical understanding in relation to the learning outcomes. There is substantial originality and insight in identifying, generating and communicating competing arguments, perspectives or problem solving approaches; critical evaluation of problems, their solutions and their implications; creativity in application as appropriate to the discipline.
D (Distinction)	Provides evidence of integration and evaluation of critical ideas, principles and theories, distinctive insight and ability in applying relevant skills and concepts in relation to learning outcomes. There is demonstration of frequent originality in defining and analysing issues or problems and providing solutions; and the use of means of communication appropriate to the discipline and the audience.
Cr (Credit)	Provides evidence of learning that goes beyond replication of content knowledge or skills relevant to the learning outcomes. There is demonstration of substantial understanding of fundamental concepts in the field of study and the ability to apply these concepts in a variety of contexts; convincing argumentation with appropriate coherent justification; communication of ideas fluently and clearly in terms of the conventions of the discipline.
P (Pass).	Provides sufficient evidence of the achievement of learning outcomes. There is demonstration of understanding and application of fundamental concepts of the field of study; routine argumentation with acceptable justification; communication of information and ideas adequately in terms of the conventions of the discipline. The learning attainment is considered satisfactory or adequate or competent or capable in relation to the specified outcomes
F (Fail)	Does not provide evidence of attainment of learning outcomes. There is missing or partial or superficial or faulty understanding and application of the fundamental concepts in the field of study; missing, undeveloped, inappropriate or confusing argumentation; incomplete, confusing or lacking communication of ideas in ways that give little attention to the conventions of the discipline.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand a variety of approaches in curriculum decision making
- Understand the professional environment of early childhood teaching
- Identify the factors that influence curriculum decision making processes
- Facilitate appropriate experiences for children within the total learning environment
- Appreciate the value of an anti-bias approach in work with children and their families
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the reflective practitioner.

Assessment tasks

- Assessment 1
- Assessment 2
- Assessment 3
- Assessment 3A
- Assessment 3B
- Assessment 3C

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand a variety of approaches in curriculum decision making

- Understand the professional environment of early childhood teaching
- Identify the factors that influence curriculum decision making processes
- Critically evaluate teaching practices
- Appreciate the value of an anti-bias approach in work with children and their families
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the reflective practitioner.

Assessment tasks

- Assessment 1
- Assessment 2
- Assessment 3
- Assessment 3A
- Assessment 3B
- Assessment 3C

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand a variety of approaches in curriculum decision making
- Understand the professional environment of early childhood teaching
- Identify the factors that influence curriculum decision making processes
- Critically evaluate teaching practices
- Appreciate the value of an anti-bias approach in work with children and their families
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the reflective practitioner.

Assessment tasks

- Assessment 2
- Assessment 3
- Assessment 3A
- Assessment 3B
- Assessment 3C

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand a variety of approaches in curriculum decision making
- Understand the professional environment of early childhood teaching
- Identify the factors that influence curriculum decision making processes
- Critically evaluate teaching practices
- Appreciate the value of an anti-bias approach in work with children and their families
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the reflective practitioner.

Assessment tasks

- Assessment 2
- Assessment 3
- Assessment 3B
- Assessment 3C

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify the factors that influence curriculum decision making processes
- Appreciate the value of an anti-bias approach in work with children and their families
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the reflective practitioner.

Assessment tasks

- Assessment 1
- Assessment 2
- Assessment 3
- Assessment 3A

- Assessment 3B
- Assessment 3C

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand a variety of approaches in curriculum decision making
- Understand the professional environment of early childhood teaching
- Identify the factors that influence curriculum decision making processes
- Facilitate appropriate experiences for children within the total learning environment
- Critically evaluate teaching practices
- Appreciate the value of an anti-bias approach in work with children and their families
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the reflective practitioner.

Assessment tasks

- Assessment 2
- Assessment 3