



ECHE8220

Issues in Early Childhood Policy and Pedagogy

Session 2, Special circumstance 2020

Macquarie School of Education

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Disclaimer

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Notice

As part of [Phase 3 of our return to campus plan](#), most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group learning activities on campus for the second half-year, while keeping an online version available for those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face and online activities for your unit, please go to [timetable viewer](#). To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Lecturer and tutor

Professor Philip Li

philip.li@mq.edu.au

Contact via Via iLearn

Room 371, 29 WW

By appointment.

Andrea McFarlane

andrea.mcfarlane@mq.edu.au

Contact via Via iLearn

Owain Matthews

owain.matthews@mq.edu.au

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

(ECED826 or ECHE8260) or [admission to MEChild or MEdLead or MEd or GradCertIndigenousEd or MIndigenousEd or MSpecEd or GradCertEdS]

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit explores current issues and debates affecting pedagogy, practice, politics and policy in early childhood education. Students will explore a range of responses to state, national and international influences on the provision of nurturant educational services in the early childhood years. We will consider individual approaches to teaching practice as well as policy development in the delivery of various services used by young children and their families. This will include the investigation of approaches to reconceptualising early childhood pedagogy as well as the achievements of major government initiatives directed at education and care settings and the wellbeing of young children and their families.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

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

- ULO1:** Refine your professional knowledge and understanding in early childhood pedagogy and policy by applying high order analytical skills
- ULO2:** Examine current issues in policy and pedagogy in early childhood education in an integrated way to identify alternative perspectives
- ULO3:** Critically review relevant literature when appraising complex policy and pedagogical issues as an educational leader in early childhood settings
- ULO4:** Investigate complex information, concepts, and theories in order to establish a personal position regarding emerging trends in the early childhood arena

General Assessment Information

This section provides students with general information about assessment tasks and how to submit them. More detailed information about each assignment, including the rubrics used for marking are provided in the *Readings and Assessment Guide* downloadable from the unit's iLearn site.

Assessment Presentation and 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
- It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all assessments are successfully submitted through Turnitin.

Draft Submissions & Turnitin Originality Reports

- Students may use Turnitin's Originality Report as a learning tool to improve their academic writing if this option is made available in the unit.
- Students are strongly encouraged to upload a draft copy of each assessment to Turnitin at least one week prior to the due date to obtain an Originality Report.
- The Originality Report provides students with a similarity index that may indicate if plagiarism has occurred. Students will be able to make amendments to their drafts prior to their final submission on the due date.
- Generally, one Originality Report is generated every 24 hours up to the due date.

Please note:

- Students should regularly save a copy of all assignments before submission.
- Students are responsible for checking that their submission has been successful and has been submitted by the due date and time.

Assignment extensions and late penalties

- In general, there should be no need for extensions except through illness or misadventure that would be categorised as serious and unavoidable disruption according to the University definition of same, see: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration>
- Applications for extensions must be made via AskMQ according to the Special Consideration policy. Extensions can only be granted if they meet the Special Considerations policy and are submitted via <https://ask.mq.edu.au/>. This will ensure consistency in the consideration of such requests is maintained.
- Late submissions: 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.
- If a student is still permitted to submit on the basis of unavoidable disruption, an alternative topic may be set.
- 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 re-assessment 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 cannot be re-marked as they are all double-marked as a part of the moderation process.
- The outcome of a re-mark may be a **higher/lower or unchanged grade**. Grades are *standards referenced* and effort is NOT a criterion.

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.

Descriptive Criteria for awarding grades in the unit

In order to meet the unit outcomes and successfully pass this unit, students must make a genuine attempt at all assessment tasks. Where any submitted assessment task is considered to be unsatisfactory in this regard, the highest possible final grade that can be awarded for the unit will be 45.

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: 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.
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Grade: 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.
Grade: C (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.
Grade: 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.
Grade: 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.

Results

Results shown in iLearn, 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](#).

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 pseudonyms for any children or adults referred to in the assignment. Do not record details that enable identification of a site, or of children or adults.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Assignment 1A: Reading Journal	20%	No	24 August

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Assignment 1B: Reading Journal	20%	No	14 September
Assignment 1C: Reading Journal	20%	No	5 November
Assignment 2	40%	No	31 October

Assignment 1A: Reading Journal

Assessment Type ¹: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **24 August**

Weighting: **20%**

A written critical reflection on required readings identified for each week. 1000 words.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Refine your professional knowledge and understanding in early childhood pedagogy and policy by applying high order analytical skills
- Examine current issues in policy and pedagogy in early childhood education in an integrated way to identify alternative perspectives
- Critically review relevant literature when appraising complex policy and pedagogical issues as an educational leader in early childhood settings

Assignment 1B: Reading Journal

Assessment Type ¹: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **14 September**

Weighting: **20%**

A written critical reflection on required readings identified for each week.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Refine your professional knowledge and understanding in early childhood pedagogy and policy by applying high order analytical skills
- Examine current issues in policy and pedagogy in early childhood education in an integrated way to identify alternative perspectives
- Critically review relevant literature when appraising complex policy and pedagogical issues as an educational leader in early childhood settings

Assignment 1C: Reading Journal

Assessment Type ¹: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **5 November**

Weighting: **20%**

A written critical reflection on required readings identified for each week. 1000 words.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Refine your professional knowledge and understanding in early childhood pedagogy and policy by applying high order analytical skills
- Examine current issues in policy and pedagogy in early childhood education in an integrated way to identify alternative perspectives
- Critically review relevant literature when appraising complex policy and pedagogical issues as an educational leader in early childhood settings

Assignment 2

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **31 October**

Weighting: **40%**

An essay and/or presentation regarding emerging trends in the Early Childhood arena. There are TWO options: a major essay (2000 words) OR a minor essay (1000 words) plus a presentation with slides (10-15 mins).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Investigate complex information, concepts, and theories in order to establish a personal position regarding emerging trends in the early childhood arena

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

This unit has a full web presence through *iLearn*.

Students will need regular access to a computer and the internet to complete this unit.

Weekly access to iLearn is compulsory for all students. Important assessment information will be posted there, as will other relevant unit notices and materials, including the readings associated with each module.

Support resources

Macquarie University has a range of services for students. If you are struggling with any aspect of academic life or career trajectory and skills, we have great supports within the university. Please refer to the comprehensive list of support services [here](#).

Access and technical assistance

This unit requires students to use several ICT and software skills:

- **Internet access:** The *iLearn* site contains materials for this unit; it is also required for the online submission of all Assessment Tasks, and for the use of Turnitin submission for ALL tasks.
- **Word processing, visual representations, and document formatting:** You are required to use an appropriate form of software to present your assignments.
- **Uploading** of assessment tasks to **iLearn**.

Information for students about access to the online component of this unit is available at ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/MQ/. You will need to enter your student username and password.

Important:

- Please do NOT contact the Unit Convenor regarding *iLearn* technical help.
- No extensions will be given for any technical issues. Allow enough time for your submissions.
- OneHelp is the online IT support service for both students and staff. Assistance is available from IT Helpdesk ph: 1800 67 4357, or log a request at https://mq.service-now.com/onehelp_public/

The information in this Unit Guide must be read in conjunction with the [Readings and Assessments Guide](#) for ECHE/X8220 available for downloading from iLearn.

Withdrawing from this Unit

If you are considering withdrawing from this unit, please seek academic advice via <https://ask.mq.edu.au> before doing so as this unit may be a co-requisite or prerequisite for units in the following sessions and may impact on your progression through the degree.

Important:

If you are enrolled in the Master of Teaching (Birth to Five Years), it is recommended that ECHE/X 8220 be taken in your final year of this degree because it is assumed that you have some familiarity with EC settings in Australia.

Unit Schedule

Please refer to the Readings and Assessments Guide for ECHE/X8220 available for downloading from iLearn.

Policies and Procedures

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.*)

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

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 help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

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.