



# ECHE2200

## Early Years Curriculum and Pedagogy in the Australian Context

Session 1, In person-scheduled-infrequent, North Ryde 2022

*Macquarie School of Education*

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#### Disclaimer

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Emma Sutherland

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Contact via iLearn Dialogue

29WW 348

By appointment

Fay Hadley

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp at 1000 level or above including (ECH113 or ECHE1130)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit introduces students to the theoretical and philosophical trends underpinning early childhood pedagogy. Students explore the historical origins of early childhood curriculum and examine the principles and practices that influence contemporary approaches to teaching and learning with young children. Students will be introduced to philosophical principles including equity, diversity, ethics and critical thinking. In addition they will examine issues of professional judgment and curriculum decision making.

## 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:** Understand the historical context and theoretical perspectives that influence contemporary early childhood education and care.

**ULO2:** Identify key characteristics of early childhood teachers and contexts.

**ULO3:** Understand and appreciate self as an early childhood professional, and as a

learner.

**ULO4:** Describe contemporary issues surrounding the pedagogy of professional practice.

**ULO5:** Articulate an understanding of curriculum decision making and change.

**ULO6:** Demonstrate increased skills of investigation and the ability to synthesise ideas.

**ULO7:** Use library resources and information technology to enhance learning.

## **General Assessment Information**

### **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.
- Faculty assignment cover sheets are NOT required.

### **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 the correct file has been uploaded, that their submission has been successful, and that it 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 - 10/100 marks of credit (10% of the total assessment weighting) will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted seven days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessment - e.g., quizzes, online tests. A zero result for the assignment will be recorded after the late submission period has ended if no task has been received.
- 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:

- Please do not request a re-mark for a Failed assessment 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	Descriptor
<b>HD</b> (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.
<b>D</b> (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.

<b>Cr</b> (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.
<b>P</b> (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
<b>F</b> (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.

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

### **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.

### **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](https://ask.mq.edu.au).

## **Assessment Tasks**

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#">Explaining the EYLF</a>	30%	No	18/03/2022 (Friday Week 4)
<a href="#">Analysing Early Childhood Curriculum and Pedagogy</a>	40%	No	29/04/2022 (Friday Week 8)
<a href="#">Documentation and Planning</a>	30%	No	03/06/2022 (Friday Week 13)

## Explaining the EYLF

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 26 hours

Due: **18/03/2022 (Friday Week 4)**

Weighting: **30%**

Part A: In groups give a presentation explaining one aspect of the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) to a parent audience. Part B: Each group member will individually write a brief parent newsletter explaining the same aspect of the EYLF in a written format. (Presentation 10 minutes) (Newsletter 1000 words)

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify key characteristics of early childhood teachers and contexts.
- Understand and appreciate self as an early childhood professional, and as a learner.
- Describe contemporary issues surrounding the pedagogy of professional practice.
- Articulate an understanding of curriculum decision making and change.

## Analysing Early Childhood Curriculum and Pedagogy

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Essay

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 34 hours

Due: **29/04/2022 (Friday Week 8)**

Weighting: **40%**

Write an essay exploring aspects of early childhood curriculum and pedagogy (1800 words)

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the historical context and theoretical perspectives that influence contemporary early childhood education and care.
- Identify key characteristics of early childhood teachers and contexts.
- Understand and appreciate self as an early childhood professional, and as a learner.
- Describe contemporary issues surrounding the pedagogy of professional practice.
- Articulate an understanding of curriculum decision making and change.
- Demonstrate increased skills of investigation and the ability to synthesise ideas.
- Use library resources and information technology to enhance learning.

## Documentation and Planning

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Report

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 30 hours

Due: **03/06/2022 (Friday Week 13)**

Weighting: **30%**

Write a report examining the use of digital documentation platforms in early childhood settings and providing recommendations for their use (1200 words)

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe contemporary issues surrounding the pedagogy of professional practice.
- Articulate an understanding of curriculum decision making and change.
- Demonstrate increased skills of investigation and the ability to synthesise ideas.
- Use library resources and information technology to enhance learning.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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

### Required and recommended texts

There is no set textbook for this unit this session.

A reading list is provided on iLearn and readings for each week are available via Leganto.

### Information about the unit iLearn site

This unit has a full web presence through *iLearn*. For Session 1, 2022, all lectures are pre-recorded and available via 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 here, as will other relevant unit notices and materials, including a reading template and guide to lecture note taking to assist your studies.



Various activities and materials for discussion and critical reflection are included and external students especially are encouraged to use this web component. Electronic links and suggested references will be included in the Resources section. Please check the iLearn unit regularly.

Weekly lectures are available on the web through the ECHO360 lecture component. You must listen to all lectures.

PowerPoint slides are available in iLearn in advance of the weekly lecture.

### **Access and technical assistance**

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

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.

Assistance is available from IT Helpdesk ph: 1800 67 4357 or log a request at [help.mq.edu.au](http://help.mq.edu.au). OneHelp is the online IT support service for both students and staff.

### **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**.

### **Structure**

The unit runs for 10 weeks. Each week comprises a one-hour lecture (pre-recorded) and a two-hour tutorial (for internal students). In the tutorial, students will discuss issues and questions arising from the lectures and prescribed readings. They are expected to base their arguments/discussions on evidence from published research and other relevant material. Lectures will also be available through Echo in iLearn from the following website link: <http://ilearn.mq.edu.au>.

External students will complete the tutorial tasks at the scheduled on-campus sessions:

- Monday 11th April 9am - 3pm
- Tuesday 12th April 9am - 3pm

It is expected that students will attend tutorials or on-campus sessions. During tutorials and on-campus sessions students are required to participate in small group activities, whole class discussion, to read the weekly material in advance, and to complete brief tasks either as individuals or in pairs. The weekly program for the course with the accompanying readings/preparation is available below, while a more detailed reading list for each week is available on the unit iLearn site.

# Unit Schedule

## ECHE2200 Unit Schedule - S1 2022

Week	Topic
Week 1 (21/02/22)	Introduction to ECHE2200
Week 2 (28/02/22)	The EYLF: The Big Ideas
Week 3 (07/03/22)	The EYLF: Principles and Practices
Week 4 (14/03/22)	THE EYLF: Learning Outcomes <i>Assignment 1 Due: Midnight Friday 18/03/22</i>
Week 5 (21/03/22)	Early Childhood Curriculum
Week 6 (28/03/22)	Early Childhood Pedagogy
Week 7 (04/04/22)	Putting it all together
Mid-Semester Break (11/04/22 - 24/04/22) On-Campus Days (External Students) Monday 11th April and Tuesday 12th April (9 am - 3 pm)	
Week 8 (25/04/22)	Documenting Children's Learning <i>Assignment 2 Due: Midnight Friday 29/04/22</i>
Week 9 (02/05/22)	Digital Documentation
Week 10 (09/05/22)	Wrapping Up
Weeks 11, 12, 13 No Classes <i>Assignment 3 Due: Midnight Friday 03/06/22</i>	

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.s.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.s.mq.edu.au). 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](#)

- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

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

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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](https://ask.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

### School of Education Procedures

In addition, the following policies and procedures of the School of Education are applicable in this unit.

### Attendance for undergraduate units

All Internal tutorials begin in Week 1 of Session.

Activities completed during weekly tutorials (internal) or on-campus days (external) are essential for building the core knowledge and/or skills required to demonstrate the learning outcomes of this unit [and to meet the AITSL Graduate Teacher Standards and/or ACECQA requirements]. Attendance at all tutorials or on-campus days is expected and the roll will be taken.

Students are required to attend the tutorial in which they are enrolled. Any changes to tutorial

enrolments must be completed officially through e-student. Please do not contact the unit convenor requesting a change.

### **Unit Expectations**

- Students are expected to read weekly readings before completing tasks and attending tutorials
- Students are expected to listen/attend weekly lectures before completing tasks and attending tutorials

Note: It is not the responsibility of unit staff to contact students who have failed to submit assignments. If you have any missing items of assessment, it is your responsibility to make contact with the unit convenor.

### **Electronic Communication**

It is the student's responsibility to check all electronic communication on a regular weekly basis. Communication may occur via:

- Official *MQ Student Email* Address
- The *Dialogue* function on iLearn
- Other iLearn communication functions

### **External Students**

- The on-campus sessions on Monday 11th April and Tuesday 12th April are essential to student engagement and learning and attendance on all days is expected. Failure to attend or to have an approved Special Consideration may result in a Fail grade for the unit. Please see attendance requirements in this unit guide.
- Prior to the on-campus sessions, you should have read the prescribed readings and listened to the lectures. Summarise the main points and make a note of the key terms and definitions. Prepare any discussion questions of your own that you wish to share.
- Please make effective use of the online component of the unit and access iLearn regularly. Keep up to date with listening to the lectures on a weekly basis.

## **Student Support**

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

## The Writing Centre

The Writing Centre provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- Workshops
- Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader
- Access StudyWISE
- Upload an assignment to Studiosity
- Complete the 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

Macquarie University offers a range of Student Support Services including:

- IT Support
- Accessibility and disability support with study
- Mental health support
- Safety support to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues

## Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via AskMQ, or contact Service Connect.

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](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.

## 5R's Framework

The 5Rs Framework, developed by the School of Education at Macquarie University, is embedded throughout your teacher education course. Your use of the 5Rs Framework will help you develop the capabilities that will make your teaching career sustainable and fulfilling. In this unit, you will learn using the 5Rs framework in the following important ways:

### Resilient

One aspect of this unit is a focus on learning dispositions for children - which include resilience and persistence. These are discussed in terms of how they can be "taught" but in doing so students also engage in reflection on their own sense of identity and dispositions for learning

### **Reflexive**

Reflective practice is a key principle within the EYLF. In exploring the importance of reflective practice throughout the unit students are engaged in regular reflection and reflective discussions about their own ideas and thinking

### **Responsive**

The unit ties theory to practice through and exploration of the EYLF and how it is used in early childhood settings. In this way it is responsive to practice and current debates/ideas in the sector and also informed by Mia Mia's practice (through the involvement of Mia Mia staff in teaching on the unit). The final assignment addresses contemporary/digital approaches to documentation of children's learning.

### **Ready to Learn**

This unit focuses on the importance of ongoing professional development for teachers throughout their career. Key discussions focus on professional decision making and the role of ongoing learning as a key contributor to professional knowledge and growth

### **Research Engaged**

In exploring the EYLF the unit engages with the research evidence that underpins early childhood curriculum. It is also concerned with helping students to articulate the research on early childhood education to a parent audience. Assignment 1 requires students to explain an element of the EYLF to parents via a newsletter while Assignment 2 asks them to explore the research behind another aspect of the EYLF.