



# EDST3020

## Practice of Teaching: Outdoor Learning Environments

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2025

*Macquarie School of Education*

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#### Disclaimer

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor

Anna Margaret Grogan

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Contact via email

25BWW

By Appointment

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

(EDST2501 or EDST2000 or EDST200 or EDST2500 or EDST2010 or EDST201 or ECHP2220 or ECHP222) and (ECHE220 or ECHE2200)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit incorporates both theoretical and practical aspects of teaching and working in early childhood contexts. Students in this unit will explore and examine theories of learning and develop a critical understanding of (i) observing, recording and planning for diverse learners, (ii) the outdoors as a learning space for young children, and (iii) embedding sustainability practices in everyday teaching. Students will continue to develop their teaching skills and complete 20 days of Professional Experience in an early childhood setting

## 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:** Examine theories of diverse learners and develop strategies for differentiating planning for diverse needs.

**ULO2:** Understand the Early Years Learning Framework and the accountability requirements as a teacher in terms of the NQF and NQS.

**ULO3:** Examine the outdoors as a learning space and develop strategies for embedding

sustainability in the prior to school setting.

**ULO4:** Consolidate knowledge on guiding children's behaviour and hone strategies for guiding children's behaviour, including transitions.

**ULO5:** Engage in active, careful and critical reflective practice.

**ULO6:** Extend generic skills such as problem-solving, critical analysis, self-awareness, task management, literacy and communication skills.

**ULO7:** Observe, plan and document children's learning.

## General Assessment Information

### General Submission Information

Please format assessments using 12-point font and 1.5 spacing. All assessments must be submitted electronically. Turnitin plagiarism detection software is used to check all written assessments. It is the responsibility of all students to ensure that their submitted work is in a format compatible with Turnitin software for plagiarism checking. Submissions must meet the required file type and formatting specifications outlined in the assessment guidelines. Failure to submit work in an acceptable format may result in delays in processing your submission and potential penalties for non-compliance with assessment requirements. If you are unsure about the file format or have technical difficulties, it is your responsibility to seek assistance before the submission deadline. Students should be careful to check that they submit the correct file for an assessment as no re-submissions will be accepted after the due date and time, including instances where students upload an incorrect file. It is not the responsibility of unit staff to contact students who have failed to submit assessments. If you have any missing items of assessment, it is your responsibility to contact the unit convenor.

Students can use Turnitin's Originality Report as a learning tool to improve their academic writing if this option is made available in the unit. Word limits are strictly applied. Work above the word limit will not be marked.

### Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Students should be aware of and apply the University policy on academic integrity (see: <https://policies.mq.edu.au/document/view.php?id=3>). Any student suspected of using unauthorised AI in an assignment will be referred to the Faculty of Arts Discipline Committee. Penalties can include reduced marks for an assessment, being awarded '0' for a task, failing an entire unit, being excluded from a course of study. Please see each assessment task description/ rubric for expectations about AI.

### Special Consideration / Late Penalties

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day an assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends) (see: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/special-consideration>). Applications for extensions must be made via Service Connect. After the 7th day, a mark of 0 (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11:55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who

experience a technical issue. This late penalty will apply to non-timed sensitive assessments (incl. essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special Consideration application. A Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

### Marking

All assessments are marked using a rubric. Marking of all assessments is moderated by the Unit Convenor.

### University Policy on Grading

Assignments will be awarded grades ranging from HD to F according to guidelines set out in the University's Grading System and University Assessment Policy. To attain a pass or higher grade in Professional Experience a student must obtain a satisfactory in both the Professional Experience component and a pass or higher grade in the academic component. For Professional Experience units the Professional Experience Evaluation Report is marked as Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory. The Macquarie Teaching Performance Assessment (MQTPA - in final WIL/PEX units) is marked as Not met, Met or Exceeds.

### Results

Results shown in iLearn, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed because 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 Service Connect.

### Withdrawing from this unit

If you are considering withdrawing from this unit, please seek academic advice via Service Connect before doing so as this unit may be a co-requisite or prerequisite for units in the following sessions and may impact your course progression.

## Assessment Tasks

| Name  | Weighting | Hurdle | Due              |
|---|-----------|--------|------------------|
| <a href="#">Professional Experience Evaluation Report</a> | 0%        | Yes    | 23:55 01/06/2025 |
| <a href="#">Planning for Diversity</a>                    | 50%       | No     | 23:55 10/04/2025 |
| <a href="#">Teaching in Practice</a>                      | 50%       | No     | 23:55 05/06/2025 |

## Professional Experience Evaluation Report

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

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 0 hours

Due: **23:55 01/06/2025**

Weighting: **0%**

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

Supervising teacher completes Evaluation report.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Examine theories of diverse learners and develop strategies for differentiating planning for diverse needs.
- Understand the Early Years Learning Framework and the accountability requirements as a teacher in terms of the NQF and NQS.
- Examine the outdoors as a learning space and develop strategies for embedding sustainability in the prior to school setting.
- Consolidate knowledge on guiding children's behaviour and hone strategies for guiding children's behaviour, including transitions.
- Engage in active, careful and critical reflective practice.
- Extend generic skills such as problem-solving, critical analysis, self-awareness, task management, literacy and communication skills.
- Observe, plan and document children's learning.

## Planning for Diversity

Assessment Type **1**: Field work task

Indicative Time on Task **2**: 13 hours

Due: **23:55 10/04/2025**

Weighting: **50%**

Analysis of aspects of diversity and difference in a classroom scenario that will form the basis for teaching decisions (1500 words)

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Examine theories of diverse learners and develop strategies for differentiating planning for diverse needs.
- Understand the Early Years Learning Framework and the accountability requirements as a teacher in terms of the NQF and NQS.

- Consolidate knowledge on guiding children's behaviour and hone strategies for guiding children's behaviour, including transitions.
- Engage in active, careful and critical reflective practice.
- Extend generic skills such as problem-solving, critical analysis, self-awareness, task management, literacy and communication skills.

## Teaching in Practice

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Field work task

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 14 hours

Due: **23:55 05/06/2025**

Weighting: **50%**

Students submit material from their Professional Experience (PEX) folder. These are reflective tasks that are completed during PEX placement (1500 words)

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Examine theories of diverse learners and develop strategies for differentiating planning for diverse needs.
- Understand the Early Years Learning Framework and the accountability requirements as a teacher in terms of the NQF and NQS.
- Examine the outdoors as a learning space and develop strategies for embedding sustainability in the prior to school setting.
- Engage in active, careful and critical reflective practice.
- Extend generic skills such as problem-solving, critical analysis, self-awareness, task management, literacy and communication skills.

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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

Information about the unit [iLearn site](#)

This unit has a full web presence through iLearn. 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. Assistance is available from IT Helpdesk: via email [onehelp@mq.edu.au](mailto:onehelp@mq.edu.au) or Ph: 9850 4357 or 1800 67 4357. On Campus: Ground floor at 18 Wally's Walk.

### **Required and recommended texts**

- Arthur et al. (2020). *Programming and Planning in Early Childhood Settings* (8th ed.). Cengage.
- Little, H., Elliott, S., & Wyver, S. (2017). *Outdoor Learning Environments: Spaces for Exploration, Discovery and Risk-Taking in the Early Years*. Routledge.
- Porter, L. (2016). *Young Children's Behaviour* (4th ed.). Allen & Unwin.
- The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia (EYLF) (v2.0)

## **Unit Schedule**

**Unit Schedule and Learning Activities** All information regarding the unit schedule, learning and teaching activities is available on the iLearn site. Students are required to check iLearn regularly for updates, including weekly content, assessment details, and important announcements.

## **Policies and Procedures**

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

[du.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 [connect.mq.edu.au](https://connect.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 for the Macquarie School of Education apply to this unit.

### Academic Progression Policy

This unit is a part of a professional course listed on Schedules 2 and 3 of the Academic Progression Policy. This course has additional requirements that are applicable for the full duration of the course, including course-specific Inherent Requirements, Fitness to Practice requirements and other compulsory course requirements. It also has rigorous academic progression standards. Inability to meet these requirements may result in a withdrawal of offer of admission and/or permanent exclusion from the course in accordance with the General Coursework Rules.

### Fitness to practice in a Professional Experience unit

Macquarie University operates under a 'Fitness to Practice' model as specified in the University's Academic Progression Policy. For this unit, this means that, when undertaking a placement, a student is declaring that they are able to demonstrate professional competence, acceptable professional behaviour, freedom from impairment, and compliance with program specific requirements needed for a student to practice properly and safely throughout their Practical, Clinical or Professional program or unit. 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. For more information Academic Progression Policy.

### Communication

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



Communication may occur via:

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

### **Attendance and Participation**

See the University timetable for information about when classes begin in this unit. Creating your timetable - Enrolling | Macquarie University, Sydney (mq.edu.au)

Attendance at all synchronous activities, completion of non-synchronous formative/diagnostic class tasks and involvement in professional forums is expected. Activities completed during weekly tutorials (DAY or ONLINE DAY mode) or on campus days (INFQ mode) 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 and/or on campus days is expected and will be recorded. Make up tasks may be given if attendance is missed to ensure all content is covered to meet accreditation requirements.

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 to request a change.

### **Infrequent Attendance Students**

Information about the dates of the on-campus sessions can be found in the university timetable. Creating your timetable - Enrolling | Macquarie University, Sydney (mq.edu.au).

- The on campus sessions are essential to student engagement and learning and attendance is expected. Failure to attend or not to have an approved Special Consideration may result in a Fail grade.
- Prior to the on campus sessions, students should have read the prescribed readings and listened to the lectures, summarise the main points, and make notes 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.
- Further details and any updates about times and locations will be posted on iLearn as an Announcement during first half of the semester.

### **Professional Experience Unit Expectations**

- Important Professional Experience information can be found on Education Commons – see iLearn for details of how to self-enrol in Education Commons
- Students must be able to present evidence of completion of mandatory requirements prior to session census date (or as otherwise advised) to receive a placement for

Professional Experience. Please check your email from the Work Integrated Learning (WIL) Office. Requirements are outlined here: [https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/professional-learning/pl-resources/pre-service-teacher-resources/induction-for-pre-service-teachers/mandatory-pre-requisites-for-pre-service-teachers-participating-](https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/professional-learning/pl-resources/pre-service-teacher-resources/induction-for-pre-service-teachers/mandatory-pre-requisites-for-pre-service-teachers-participating)

- Students must have submitted all written assessment tasks and/or completed associated unit requirements scheduled prior to the commencement of the block.
- Students who are completing a unit offered by another Department are expected to inform and negotiate with that unit convenor about their professional experience block dates and discuss how that unit's requirements can be met. For some situations it may mean that a student is enrolled externally for that unit so that attendance for tutorials for that unit is not impacted.
- Feedback from Placement Support Team and/or Tertiary Supervisors and/or Supervising Teachers is of a general nature. It is incumbent on the student to check the requirements of any assessments or Professional Experience written tasks prior to submission.
- Students may not be able to commence their placement until all alleged academic honesty breaches have been investigated and resolved.
- 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.
- If a Student is identified as being In Need of Additional Support (INAS) for Professional Practice and/or Professional Experience written tasks, the Macquarie School of Education's 'Additional Support' procedure will be activated.

## Student Support

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

## Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) 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 Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

## Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), 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.

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Unit information based on version 2025.02 of the [Handbook](#)