

**University of Massachusetts Lowell**

**Graduate School of Education**

**02.302 Early Literacy Community Experience**

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**Office: #525-(978)934-4622**

**Friday 9:30-11:00**

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**Purpose:**

The purpose of this course is to help students enrolled in the Jumpstart program acquire the most recent knowledge about the educational implications and applications of research on developmentally appropriate practice (DAP) in early childhood programs. Students will be challenged to think about their own vision of education and how effectively environments which meet their needs enhance the overall development of each learner. Special attention will be given to individual variations, learning theory and practice, issues related to motivation and management, contextual factors and assessment of student learning with an emphasis on authentic assessments. An exploration of the connections between theory and practice and how to link this knowledge to the national and state standards for early childhood curriculum will be dealt with. Students will be given opportunities to understand the integration of the physical, emotional, social and cognitive development of elementary school children.

## **Outcomes:**

The outcomes of this course reflect the national standards (NAEYC) for teaching young children.

Students will:

1. Acquire knowledge about the role of the teacher( Standards 1-6)
2. Recognize the importance of understanding the stages of child development through classical theoretical perspectives ( Standard 1)
3. Develop an understanding of the impact of culture, language and community on development and assessment ( Standard 3)
4. Recognize child development as a complex, continuous an uneven process ( Standard 1)
5. Develop methods which enhance the development of the whole child (Standards 4 and 5)
6. Develop creative and flexible plans and assessments based on developmental needs of children ( Standard 3)
7. Learn how to reflect on their experiences and evaluate their performance as teachers (Standard 6)
8. Recognize the importance of creating community and family partnerships (Standard 2)

## **Evaluation:**

**Class participation and attendance:** 20%

**Jumpstart Service participation (includes reflective journal and lesson plans):**  
40%

**Presentation on course readings:** 15%

**Observation by instructor:** 10 %

***Final: Creating a case study:*** 15%

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment/ Assessment in class</b>
January 27	Introduction to course Review of DAP: 4 basic premises	Presentation of case studies: Meeting the child where s/he is
February 3	Case studies	Presentation of case studies
February 10	Case studies	Presentation of case studies
February 17	<b>NO CLASS</b>	Homework: Analysis of case studies
February 24	Classroom Management: Promoting social and emotional competence	Social-emotional teaching strategies
March 2	Classroom Management Promoting social and emotional competence	Social- emotional teaching strategies
March 9	Classroom management: Promoting social and emotional competence	Challenging behavior
<b>March 16- Spring Break</b>		
March 23	The concept of play	
March 30	The concept of play	
April 6	Visit to a kindergarten class	Yardstick observations
April 13	Visit to a kindergarten class	Yardstick observations
April 20	Bringing it all together	
April 27 – University closed		
May 4 Last class: Projects due	Sharing of projects: Case studies	

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