

*California Community Colleges Curriculum Alignment Project – CAP Transitional Kindergarten
Course Outline*

Title: Reflective Practice Seminar

Short Title: REFLECT PRAC TK

Course Description

This course is designed for teachers working in early childhood or transitional kindergarten settings. Students will examine their teaching philosophy and engage in the reflective practice cycle process. Students will use a variety of instructional strategies, including purposeful play, to assess and support children’s learning and development. This course is intended to be a capstone course.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this class, students will be able to:

1. Implement the cycle of reflective practice.
2. Critically assess one’s teaching experiences to guide and inform practice.
3. Select, apply, and evaluate a variety of instructional strategies, including purposeful play, to support students’ learning and development.

Objectives

In this class, students will:

1. Describe the purpose and process of reflective practice.
2. Conduct self-assessment on multiple areas of teaching and practice.
3. Select and apply various teaching and classroom management strategies to classroom situations based on self-assessment, theory, and research.
4. Evaluate the outcomes of selected strategies and re-assess practices to guide future planning.

Content

- I. Definition of Reflective Practice
 - A. Principles
 1. Reflecting to improve teaching
 2. Reflecting to improve professional growth
 3. Reflecting to strengthen relationships with students, families, and colleagues
 - B. Process
 1. Concrete experiences
 2. Observation and reflection
 3. Formation of concepts and generalizations
 4. Testing concepts in new situations
- II. Cycle of Reflective Practice
 - A. Self-Assessment on topics such as:
 1. Teaching philosophy
 2. Instructional practices

3. Curriculum and material selection
 4. Interactions
 5. Environment
 6. Schedule, routines, and transitions
 7. Strategies for family involvement
 8. Building community in the classrooms
 9. Assessment
 10. Classroom management
 11. Communication skills
 12. Professional behaviors
 13. Inclusion of diverse perspectives
 14. Equity and inclusion
- B. Planning based on:
1. Self-assessment and reflection
 2. Theory and research
 3. Individual needs and experiences of students
- C. Implementation
1. Selecting and applying strategies
 2. Reflection on outcomes
- D. Re-Assessment: beginning the cycle again

Sample/Potential Assignments and Methods of Evaluation

<p>Written Assignments</p> <p>Teaching philosophy</p> <p>Journals</p>	<p>Method of Evaluation Student will be evaluated on their written paper describing their philosophy of teaching for working with young children and their families.</p> <p>Method of Evaluation Student will be evaluated on their ability to maintain a daily journal incorporating the influence of self-reflection to demonstrate their understanding on how to improve classroom planning and instruction, and direct work with children and their families.</p>
<p>Problem Solving Assignments</p> <p>Case Study: Observe and identify the developmental needs of an individual child.</p> <p>Action Research Project: Apply research to teaching and/or learning challenges in the classroom.</p>	<p>Method of Evaluation Complete a case study to demonstrate the student's understanding on how to observe and assess an individual child to identify developmental needs, plan and implement an appropriate lesson or experience to address those needs, and re-assess the child to evaluate the effectiveness of the learning opportunity.</p> <p>Method of Evaluation Complete an action research project to demonstrate the student's ability to reflect on the learning environment and identify one element to develop; use current research to support changes in the learning environment; and plan, implement,</p>

	and evaluate an intervention (a change in practice).
<p>Skills Demonstration Assignment</p> <p>Curriculum Project: An integrated approach to addressing the developmental needs of the children in the classroom.</p>	<p>Method of Evaluation Complete a curriculum project to demonstrate the student's understanding on how to plan, implement, and evaluate a curriculum using developmentally appropriate practices that incorporates purposeful play and intentional teaching.</p>