

Professional Development Course Syllabus

Course Number: EDVE 5203

Course Title: **VESi: Early Childhood: Observation & Assessment**

Instructor: Darcie Donegan, MA/HD Semester Credit(s): 3 Total Cost for Credit: **\$480.00**

Deadline to submit student registrations and payment to NNU: First day of class

1. Educational Goals for the Course:

- This course is designed to help educators observe and assess various aspects of children's development and programs. Participants will learn the components necessary for strong observation skills, such as self-awareness, objectivity, confidentiality and ethical guidelines. Participants will learn the various types of observations and recording tools, as well as the advantages and disadvantages associated with each. Students will learn how to set goals, plan, and choose the best instrument for specific situations. Included will be tools for assessing environments, developmental milestones, and programming.
- Participants will gain techniques for organizing, analyzing and interpreting observation data. This course will teach students how to apply assessment information to improve program quality and to best meet the needs of individual children.
- Students will discuss proper methods for display and sharing of observations and assessments. Portfolio development and other documentation methods to make children's experiences visible will be included. The course will show ways to communicate observation and assessment information to parents and other appropriate adults.
- Participants will discover how to apply course learning to each student's particular environment and needs.

2. Instructional Learning Objectives:

Participants will:

- Reflect on their own biases and learn best practice for observation and assessment of young children
- Describe the cycle and functions of observation and assessment in early childhood settings.
- Identify a variety of observation recording instruments for developmental screening and program assessment.
- Learn advantages and disadvantages of each instrument in order to identify the most appropriate choice for different goals.
- Understand how to summarize and interpret observation data to assess children and programs.
- Apply observation data to planning for individual children and programs.
- Develop formats for documenting, sharing, and explaining observation and assessment practices and information to parents and colleagues.
- Design a personal strategy for gathering information and keeping records in a specific early childhood setting.

3. Course Requirements:

- Read and complete all information presented.
- Complete all the examinations, showing a competent understanding of the material presented in those subsections with 70% accuracy or better.
- Complete course evaluation.

4. Dates, Times and Location of Proposed Course:

(1 Semester Credit Equals 15 Professor Contact Hours plus an additional 30 Hours Outside Work)

TBD and will meet accreditation standards for a three-semester credit course. Ending date must be specified at the time of registration and must be within 6 months of start date

5. Due Dates for Completion of Course Requirements: Within 6 months of registration.

6. Learning Resources and Required Text:

Early Childhood: Observation & Assessment software program; Darcie Donegan, MA/HD; Virtual Education Software, inc. ©2008
Technology Requirements: The software program is designed to be loaded onto the hard drive of your personal computer from a compact disk (CD). The software is designed to operate on Mac OS 9 or OS 10x, 256MB of RAM and 5MB of free hard disk space, 15" or larger color monitor with a minimum resolution of 800x600, CD driver 4x minimum speed and a printer connected to your computer OR Windows 2000 XP Home, Professional, or newer, 256MB of RAM and 5MB of free hard disk space; 15" or larger color monitor with a minimum resolution of 800x600, CD driver 4x minimum speed and a printer connected to your computer. Please contact VESi if you have any questions about the compatibility of these systems.

7. Evaluation Procedure: Pass/Fail

As this is a self-paced computerized instruction program, you may review course information as often as necessary. You will not be able to exit any examinations until you have answered all questions. If you try to exit the exam section before you complete all questions your information will be lost. You are expected to complete the entire exam in one sitting.

6/30/09

Center for Professional Development

623 Holly Street - Nampa, Idaho 83686 ~ 208-467-8439 ~ 800-349-6938 ~ Fax 208-467-8426 ~ cscoordinator@nnu.edu ~ www.nnu.edu/continuingstudies