Professional Development
Course Syllabus

Course Number: EDSC 5617 (Sec. 01)  Sponsor ID: 214284
Course Title: PLT: Focus on Early Childhood

Instructor: Michelle Youngquist  Continuing Education Credit(s): 1  Total Cost for Credit: $60.00

NOTE: Continuing Education courses are designed for professional development and do not normally count toward an academic degree.

1. Educational Goals for the Course:
Project Learning Tree (PLT) is award-winning environmental education. Class participants will experience activities designed to help them explore nature with early learners—ages 3-6. They will leave this class with instructional strategies and the new PLT guide: “Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood” and accompanying music CD.

2. Instructional Learning Objectives: (What will participants learn and put into practice as a result of completing this process?)
Participants will:
- Address benefits, barriers, and strategies for teaching environmental education.
- Increase their skills to teach environmental education in both indoor and outdoor venues.
- Use their five senses in PLT activities to explore nature.
- Embrace the PLT methods in their student instruction to: go outside more often; encourage students to use all their senses; begin activities with simple experiences; let students use their imaginations; provide choices; emphasize experiences over facts; integrate music, movement, art and literature into instruction; keep children actively involved; and engage parents to continue learning these activities at home.

3. Course Requirements – Participants will:
In Class:
- Attend and participate in class discussions and activities.

Out of Class:
1) Prior to class, complete a survey. Participants will rate their level of experience and comfort with learning about nature with early learners; provide information about the level of students with whom they work, and provide any concerns or questions they have about incorporating environmental experiences into their programs or classes.
2) After the class, prepare and teach an activity from the PLT Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood guide to a group of early learners.
3) Write an overview of the activity, including:
   - Name of activity, age/grade and number of your students
   - Describe any procedural adaptations you made to the activity.
   - Discussion and self-evaluation: What went well? How did the students respond to the overall activity? How did YOU feel while doing the activity? What will you change next time you teach the activity?
   - (Optional) Include photos and/or a sample of the students’ work.
4) Write a paragraph describing how you will use the information and materials from the class.
5) Submit assignments to Michelle Youngquist at plt@idahoforests.org

4. Dates, Times and Location of Proposed Course:
(1 Semester Credit Equals 15 Professor Contact Hours plus an additional 30 Hours outside Work)
4:00 - 9:00pm, March 19, 2010 and 8:00am - 5:00pm, March 20, 2010; plus an additional 33 hours of outside course work to equal the necessary 45 hours for a one-credit course. IDFG Trophy Room, 600 S Walnut, Boise ID

5. Due Date for Completion of Course Requirements: April 19, 2010


7. Evaluation Procedure: Pass/Fail