

## **TAMIL STUDIES WITH EARLY EDUCATION COURSE MODULES**

Has it always been your dream to be a teacher? Do you have a love for the rich Tamil language and culture? You can now realise your dream by taking up the Diploma in Tamil Studies with Early Education [TSE]!

Through this unique diploma, you get to share your passion for the Tamil language and culture by teaching young children. With an increasing emphasis on the Mother Tongue Language [MTL] in schools, you will become a highly sought-after Tamil Language preschool educator.

In the first year, you will hone your language proficiency in Tamil and English while gaining exposure to the rich Tamil history, literature and culture.

In the second and final years, you will continue your cultural journey through modules such as Introduction to Tamil Film & Performing Arts and Tamil Arts & the Contemporary Society. You will also learn about child development to design and deliver language and literacy programmes for young children.

In addition, you get to apply what you have learnt in a three-month internship with a preschool where you will teach Tamil MTL and literacy to young children. Throughout your three years, you will also be exposed to career and professional preparation modules that prepare you for the workplace.

### **LEVEL 2.1**

#### **Child Safety, Health & Socio-emotional Well-Being**

This module introduces policies and practices for establishing and maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for educators and children in the early childhood settings as they relate to the socio-emotional wellbeing of children. Students will understand the importance of nutritional adequacy and balanced meals for children's optimal growth. They will learn to identify early childhood illnesses and symptoms, and engage in hygienic practices and being able to observe for signs of child abuse and addressing them professionally. Clinical practice will be included for students to learn how to manage the day-to-day care routines and transitions for children from infancy to the preschool years.

#### **Social Emotional Learning**

This module equips students with the theoretical knowledge and pedagogical skills to nurture social-emotional competencies and positive values necessary for character formation in young children. It also addresses the role of teachers, in modeling good character traits, in helping children develop self-awareness and self-management skills for their emotional well-being as well as social competence to build strong interpersonal relationships. Students will also take reference from the six learning dispositions (PRAISE) and use children's picture books to promote positive values, pro-social behavior, understanding of self and others and integrate social emotional learning across the curriculum.

#### **Early Numeracy**

This module examines the theoretical framework which underpins young children's learning of mathematics. Students will be introduced to the principles, knowledge and skills required to plan, implement and evaluate learning experiences that lay the foundations for children to become problem solvers and abstract thinkers. Students will learn to choose developmentally appropriate materials and resources, set up mathematically-rich environment, use teaching techniques to nurture children's mathematical thinking and assess their learning. The use of technology and integration of numeracy in the other learning domains will also be emphasised.

#### **Discovery of the World**

This module provides an overview of how young children make sense of the world they live in and how they acquire knowledge and concepts. The scope of Science, environment awareness, technology in everyday life and learning, the Social Sciences, and culture and heritage, for children's inquiry will also be covered. Students will learn to use the

Constructivist approach to teaching, engage in field exploration and setting up discovery corners. Teaching techniques that support inquiry and independent learning in children will be covered. In addition, developmentally and culturally appropriate learning goals and experiences for children from birth to six years of age will be addressed.

### **The Tamil Diaspora**

This module explores the spread of Tamilians from their original homelands in India during the European, post-colonial and current periods to other regions. Students will learn about the historical, geographical, economic and social factors related to the causes, conditions and outcomes of the migration from India. Migrants and their descendants. Students will focus on the social organization and cultural dynamics of the Tamil diasporic community in Singapore and worldwide.

### **Introduction to Tamil Film & Performing Arts**

This module introduces students to both classical and contemporary films and performing arts forms. Students will understand how Tamil film and performing arts have evolved over time and will be encouraged to critically reflect how these platforms can be used to promote the Tamil identity and support the learning and acquisition of Tamil language.

### **Mentoring Programme 2.1**

This module builds on MP1.2 and continues to guide students on career decisions and goals, with a focus on the Early Childhood sector. Students will continue to develop career and education plans, and how to take positive steps to embark on them. Character values and work ethics which are important for students to excel in their career and in life will also be covered. In the second year of study, life skills such as personal management is introduced to help students gain skills to manage their time and conflicts which are critical for them when handling many projects and assignments, and working in groups with others.

## **LEVEL 2.2**

### **Language & Literacy**

This module introduces students to the theoretical and philosophical underpinnings of literacy development from birth to six years of age including trends and issues within a multicultural and multilingual society. Students will learn to design, organise and evaluate literacy-rich environment that helps facilitate language development; identify suitable prints and other media for reading activities to develop in young children an appreciation for a variety of children's literature. Students will also plan experiences for diverse learners, facilitate learning using appropriate techniques, assess children's progress and work with families to enhance children's language and literacy development towards school readiness.

### **The Professional & Reflective Practitioner**

This module explores the various roles of an early childhood educator in working with children, families, other professionals and agencies in the community. A range of professional issues will be examined, including stages of professional development, practitioner competencies, continuing education, advocacy and personal growth plans which are aligned with the current early childhood landscape in Singapore. Students will learn communication and reflective skills and how to manage ethical issues in relation to working with children, colleagues and families taking reference from the Code of Ethics for Early Childhood Professionals by AECES. Students will also be equipped to understand self and reflect on personal preferences and style; interpersonal skills and to enhance personal effectiveness through self-mentoring.

### **Aesthetics & Creative Expression**

This module introduces students to an array of visual and performing arts and exposures for the appreciation of the creative art forms. In addition, students will be introduced to progressive theories on Arts education to build firm foundations on the key roles the Arts play within early years settings. Theories related to aesthetic and creativity will also be introduced. Students will learn multiple approaches to engage young children in creative-arts expressions that are aesthetically rich and imaginative. Through both theory and experiential sessions, students will encounter the Arts first hand and will design Arts experiences that are developmentally appropriate, meaningful and informed by practice.

### **Introduction to Tamil Children’s Literature**

The module equips students with the skills and knowledge to appreciate and analyze Tamil children’s literature of different genres such as poems, fairy tales, and fables. Students will explore literature from Tamil Nadu, Singapore and Malaysia. Students will also learn how to write stories, poems and fairy tales for children in Tamil.

### **Tamil Arts & the Contemporary Society**

The module provides students an insight into the evolution of Tamil arts over time to find a place in our contemporary society. Students will be engaging in themes like interculturalism, globalization, migration, mass media, multilingualism and accelerated technological change to understand the Tamil arts scene in Singapore. Students will also be encouraged to observe the changing arts scene in Tamil Nadu and Malaysia.

### **Mentoring Programme 2.2**

This module continues to guide students to develop career and education plans, and how to take positive steps to embark on them. Character values and work ethics which are important for students to excel in their career and in life will also be covered. In this programme, the Mentor will continue to meet students regularly as a class to impart life skills, in small groups or on one-to-one basis to guide them to reflect and take actions towards their goals and personal growth. Life skills such as personal management of their time, conflicts and team work are emphasised.

### **Career & Professional Preparation II**

The module prepares students to write effective cover letters and resumes. Preparation and enhancement of portfolio to meet professional standards as well as development of presentation skills, and improvement of job-seeking techniques will also be covered in the module.

### **World Issues: A Singapore Perspective ^**

This module develops a student’s ability to think critically on world issues. Students will discuss a wide range of social, political and cultural issues from the Singapore perspective. It also looks at how city-state Singapore defied the odds and witnessed close to half a century of rapid economic growth, strong political ties and social harmony.

## **COURSE CURRICULUM**

### **YEAR 2**

#### **Level 2.1 (23 hours per week)**

Child Safety, Health & Socio-emotional Well-Being	4
Social Emotional Learning	4
Early Numeracy	4
Discovery of the World	4
The Tamil Diaspora	3
Introduction to Tamil Film & Performing Arts	3

Mentoring Programme 2.1 -

**Level 2.2 (24 hours per week)**

Language & Literacy	4
The Professional & Reflective Practitioner	4
Aesthetics & Creative Expression	4
Introduction to Tamil Children's Literature	4
Tamil Arts & the Contemporary Society	3
Career & Professional Preparation II	2
Mentoring Programme 2.2	-
World Issues: A Singapore Perspective^	2

**Notes:**

^ For more details on Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) electives, please log on to [www.np.edu.sg/is/](http://www.np.edu.sg/is/)

**IS Modules**

The School of Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) delivers a broad-based curriculum, which nurtures a new generation of professionals with multidisciplinary skills and an innovative and entrepreneurial spirit to meet the challenges of a knowledge economy. IS offers both prescribed modules and electives to challenge boundaries. Prescribed modules develop students' competencies in core areas such as Communication, Innovation and Enterprise, Culture and Communication, and Personal Mastery and Development, while elective modules provide insights into Arts and Humanities, Business, Design, and Science and Technology.