

COURSE MODULES

LEVEL 1.1

Academic Writing & Presentation

This module focuses on critical thinking, academic writing as well as presentation and listening skills. The module aims to equip students with the skills for academic writing and presentation. Finding and evaluating academic sources, reading, annotation, essay planning and writing and presentation skills will be developed in this module.

Career & Professional Preparation I

This module helps to give students a foundational introduction to their three-year diploma course curriculum and how it prepares them for industry. It will help them to embark on their three-year course with the end in mind, through guided reflection of their personal characteristics, and producing an overall game plan for their future education and career goals. The module aims to deepen students' commitment to the sector that the course prepares them for.

Child Development 1

This module introduces foundational knowledge of the development of children from birth to eight years of age and emphasises the importance of observations in early childhood education. Students will understand, describe and respond to children's characteristics and needs based on their developmental profile.

Early Education: Philosophy & Practices

This module introduces students to early education from the historical and philosophical perspectives. Students will gain an understanding of the principles, approaches and models of early childhood education as well as developmentally, culturally and individually appropriate practices for young children. The value and role of play in young children's lives and the overview of early childhood education in Singapore, its key stage outcomes, and the transition from pre-school to primary school will also be covered.

Field Practicum 1

This module requires students to be attached to a childcare centre to gain insights to the practices of the early childhood setting. Students will assist the host teacher and hone their skills in interacting with young children through play and routine care experiences. They will also engage in reflective writing on their observation and experience in relation to their understanding on child development.

IT Applications

This module develops e-competencies by equipping students with the essential computing concepts and necessary skills to use computer applications for information research, organisation, collaboration and presentation.

Sports & Wellness[^]

This module aims to help students improve their physical fitness by participating in a physical activity of their choice. This will also give students opportunities to develop confidence, teamwork and leadership.

LEVEL 1.2

Business Communication

This module prepares students to communicate effectively in business settings. Students will learn both oral and written communication skills that demonstrate concepts of business communication principles, interpersonal skills and intercultural skills. Topics such as proposal and report writing, elevator pitch and professional presentation will be covered.

Child Development 2

This module focuses on integrating knowledge of development of children from birth to eight years. Students will identify a range of influences and practices relevant to the holistic development of the child. Students will recognise and describe how culture and home contexts affect child development.

Child Health & Well-being

This module examines the management of children in the areas of nutrition, physical and socioemotional health, hygiene and safety. It equips students with basic skills and knowledge in promoting safety and preventive health, identifying and responding appropriately to common childhood illnesses, applying basic first aid and emergency management. Students also become familiar with issues related to child abuse and neglect such as detection, management and reporting.

Creative Arts for Young Children

This module teaches students to make use of creative arts experiences as learning tools for young children from zero to six years old. Students will be exposed to a variety of art experiences such as singing, playing percussion instruments, listening to music, moving to music (dance), dramatisation, drawing, painting and other visual arts activities like craftwork.

Language Arts in the Early Childhood Years

This module provides a detailed understanding of the components of language arts and shows how they are incorporated in the development of language and literacy acquisition in young children. Explanations of language development will be explored with reference to psychological theories.

The Professional Practitioner

This module explores the roles of professionals working with children, families, other professionals and agencies in the community. A range of issues related to the profession will be examined, including the roles of educators, the stages of professional development, the code of ethics, reflective practice, and advocacy.

COURSE CURRICULUM

| Module Name | Credit Units |
|--|--------------|
| YEAR 1 | |
| Level 1.1 (27 hours per week) | |
| Academic Writing & Presentation | 4 |
| Career & Professional Preparation I | 2 |
| Child Development 1 | 4 |
| Early Education: Philosophy & Practices | 4 |
| Field Practicum 1 | 7 |
| IT Applications | 4 |
| Sports & Wellness ^ | 2 |
| Level 1.2 (22 hours per week) | |
| Business Communication | 4 |
| Child Development 2 | 4 |
| Child Health & Well-being | 4 |
| Creative Arts for Young Children | 4 |
| Language Arts in the Early Childhood Years | 4 |
| The Professional Practitioner | 2 |

Notes:

^ For more details on Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) electives, please log on to 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.

COURSE MODULES

LEVEL 2.1

Developing School-Family-Community Partnership

This module explores the dynamics of families and their roles in an evolving society. Students will examine the interdependence between home and school and understand the importance of using the community as a network and resource. The module emphasises the teachers' perspectives in using different approaches and strategies for building bridges between the home, school and community.

Environment & Social Awareness in Children

This module emphasises the importance of instilling a sense of curiosity and wonder in children to explore and discover their physical and social environment. Students will develop the knowledge, skills and dispositions to plan and facilitate developmentally and culturally appropriate experiences to empower young children to construct their understanding of local culture, heritage and the environment to become socially competent and responsible citizens of the community.

Introduction to Children's Literature

This module introduces students to children's literature and explains how it has reflected cultural, social and ideological change. Students will examine the ways in which the child has been depicted in literature, learn to appreciate and critique different genres of children's books and be able to select age-appropriate books for young children. A study of children's television and drama is included.

Mathematics for Young Children

This module explores the mathematical content and methodology for teaching mathematics. The emphasis is two-tiered: working out a sequential mathematical curriculum content appropriate for pre-schoolers aged three to six years; and adopting teaching methodologies that nurture children's mathematical thinking, helping them to become problem solvers and abstract thinkers.

Psychology of Exceptional Children

This module introduces students to exceptional children, including those with physical, mental, behavioural and sensory characteristics that make them different. The module also provides an overview of legislation and programming issues involved in working with exceptional children and their families.

The Learning Environment & Classroom Management

This module examines a range of factors in designing the learning environment and conditions that influence children's behaviour. Students will learn to conduct observations to understand the thinking and behaviour of children, reflect on the contributing factors and use developmentally appropriate guidance strategies in the classroom setting.

LEVEL 2.2

Career & Professional Preparation II

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

Curriculum Planning & Design

This module provides students with an overview of quality educational programmes. Strategies that promote thinking, physical and socio-emotional development will guide the planning and design of pre-school curriculum. Students will review the different curriculum models including the Kindergarten Curriculum Framework in Singapore and develop skills in devising appropriate learning outcomes for all children. Students will also be introduced to models and curriculum approaches to support children's inquiry in a global society.

Field Practicum 2

This module extends students' competence in relation to the practical aspects of working with young children in early childhood settings. It will support students' learning in modules related to child development, learning and classroom environments, creative arts, mathematics as well as environmental and social awareness. Students will plan and implement experiences for children in the classes where they are placed, assist the host teacher, and engage in reflective writing.

Infant & Toddler Learning Environment

This module explores the different theoretical perspectives and practical experiences of a child's first three years. In addition, learning environment and programming issues are addressed. Developmentally appropriate caregiving practices in relation to understanding of temperaments and attachment of the child and adult-child interaction will also be covered.

COURSE CURRICULUM

| Module Name | Credit Units |
|---|--------------|
| YEAR 2 | |
| Level 2.1 (24 hours per week) | |
| Developing School-Family-Community Partnership | 4 |
| Environment & Social Awareness in Children | 4 |
| Introduction to Children's Literature | 4 |
| Mathematics for Young Children | 4 |
| Psychology of Exceptional Children | 4 |
| The Learning Environment & Classroom Management | 4 |
| Level 2.2 (23 hours per week) | |
| Career & Professional Preparation II | 2 |
| Curriculum Planning & Design | 4 |
| Field Practicum 2 | 13 |
| Infant & Toddler Learning Environment | 4 |

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COURSE MODULES

LEVEL 3.1

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHING TRACK

Capstone Project

This module brings the students through the experience of developing, implementing and presenting a project which is intended to improve teaching practice and / or benefit the community. The project will allow students to demonstrate interdisciplinary knowledge, investigative skills, and desired character traits and values. Students will learn to write project proposals, make decisions, solve problems and think critically.

Career & Professional Preparation III

This module equips students with personal grooming skills required in a professional setting. Students will be taught grooming and social etiquette as well as appropriate dressing. Other topics include personal hygiene, making small talk and handling difficult conversations.

Drama for Socio-emotional Learning in Children

This module helps students address the social and emotional learning needs of children in the early years' classrooms. Through creative drama, students learn to engage children in situations that mirror those in real life. Using real-life experiences and stories, students will help guide the children to take on different perspectives and explore new situations. Role-play and dialogue provide a platform for students to learn to work with children to embark on 'self-discovery of the world around them'.

Elective 1 - Physical Development & Play for Young Children

This module deepens students' understanding of the physical development in children from birth to eight years old. It will include developmental changes, and individual differences in physiology and growth. The module will also equip students with the knowledge and skills to help children in three strands of learning which consist of motor skills acquisition, health and fitness and safety awareness. Research studies on the importance of play as well as the implications and documentation of play will be covered.

Elective 2 - Music & Dance for Young Children

This module equips students with the essential pedagogical knowledge and practical skills relevant to the various aspects of music and dance experiences for young children. Students will learn to plan and facilitate activity-based lessons that include music and dance, aural skills, sight singing, body movements, and playing with rhythm and beats through the use of various musical instruments.

Teaching Techniques for Pre-school Education

This module brings students through the process of classroom teaching with focus on affective, instructional and organisational interactions. The module will help students develop self-awareness of their own teaching techniques in indoor and outdoor settings, during large group and small group activity time and in structured and unstructured environments.

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 the city-state of Singapore defied the odds and achieved more than half a century of rapid economic growth, political stability and social harmony.

EARLY LITERACY TRACK

Career & Professional Preparation III

This module equips participants with personal grooming skills required in a professional setting. Students will be taught grooming and social etiquette as well as appropriate dressing. Other topics include personal hygiene, making small talk and handling difficult conversations.

Drama in Pre-school Education

This module develops students' critical thinking, imagination and creative expressions, discover and value themselves, seek novel experiences and be open to new ideas. Students will learn to plan and implement drama experiences for young children, and to guide them in developing confidence, empathy, appropriate communication, good oratory and literacy skills.

Non-Fiction Writing for a Child Audience

This module introduces the practice and theory of writing non-fiction for children. Students will read a range of theoretical texts, with particular emphasis on the informative structure. They will become familiar with the working methodologies of practising authors and illustrators. They will explore a number of different disciplines, such as writing non-fiction for young readers as well as producing documentaries for children.

Teaching Literacy to Diverse Learners

This module builds on the knowledge gained in Language Arts in the Early Childhood Years and Children's Literature and prepares students to apply effective instructional methods for the teaching of reading, writing and speaking English. The module addresses the needs of diverse learners in terms of their abilities, cultural, racial and linguistic differences, and considers the linguistic development of learners from differing backgrounds. Differentiated strategies will be introduced to cater for those varying needs addressing issues in language acquisition. Creative planning with an amalgamation of language arts techniques in the area of music and movement, storytelling, dramatic arts and children's literature, and the employment of technology in literacy teaching will be included, to cater for the diverse needs of these learners.

Visual Texts & the Children's Book Illustration

This module develops students' awareness of and ability to decode visual elements in picture books. Students will be equipped with knowledge of illustrated texts for children from earliest times to the mid-twentieth century. Students will also study the relationship between words and images and the creation of meaning through analysis and creation of texts in a variety of media. A study of typography will be included.

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 the city-state of Singapore defied the odds and achieved more than half a century of rapid economic growth, political stability and social harmony.

LEVEL 3.2

6-Month Internship / Project

This module provides the opportunity for students to go on an industry internship attachment. The Internship / Project Programme enables students to acquire the work experience needed for their chosen areas of interest, with professional practitioners acting as mentors. The organisations involved are selected for their capacity to allow students to learn different aspects of work in the industry concerned. The students learning outcomes are assessed by their respective field mentors and Ngee Ann supervisors. Students could also work closely with industry partners on projects that will benefit children, families and the community.

COURSE CURRICULUM

| Module Name | Credit Units |
|--------------------|---------------------|
|--------------------|---------------------|

YEAR 3

Level 3.1 (20 hours per week)

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHING TRACK

| | |
|--|---|
| Capstone Project | 4 |
| Career & Professional Preparation III | 2 |
| Drama for Socio-emotional Learning in Children | 4 |
| Elective: | |
| • Physical Development & Play for Young Children | |
| or | |
| • Music & Dance for Young Children | 4 |
| Teaching Techniques for Pre-school Education | 4 |
| World Issues: A Singapore Perspective ^ | 2 |

EARLY LITERACY TRACK

| | |
|---|---|
| Career & Professional Preparation III | 2 |
| Drama in Pre-school Education | 4 |
| Non-fiction Writing for a Child Audience | 4 |
| Teaching Literacy to Diverse Learners | 4 |
| Visual Texts & the Children's Book Illustration | 4 |
| World Issues: A Singapore Perspective ^ | 2 |

Level 3.2 (23 hours per week)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| 6-Month Internship / Project Work | 22 |
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