

Course Syllabus EDUC 5830 CREATIVE EXPRESSION FOR THE YOUNG CHILD

Term: FA 2003

Instructor: Lori Diefenbacher 966-4829 (home—do not call after 9:00 p.m.) 968-7091 (office)

NOTE: Please contact classmates to make up work you miss if you are absent.

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Course Description:

In this course, participants will explore the role of the teacher in developing climates and media that are conducive to creative behavior. Movement, visual arts, dramatic arts, music and storytelling are the media which will be explored. Current theories of creativity will be discussed and emphasis will be on how to nurture and promote creative expression in young students, ages 0-8.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Participants will discover some of their own creative skills. (Standard 5)
2. Will become aware of the creative opportunities they already offer students and expand on this base.
3. Will respond to articles and experiences through inclass activities and discussions. (Standard 7)
4. Will understand what creativity is, how to nurture it, and how it varies from child to child. (Standard 2)
5. Will develop and share creative curriculum and creative activities. (Standard 1, 4)

WEEK 1: Introductions. Discuss syllabus. Discuss the definitions of creativity, the ingredients of creativity, the creative process, the benefits of a creative teaching style, and general ways to promote creativity. **Assignment:** Handouts to read.

WEEK 2: Music. Explore ways of using song and instrumental music to promote creative thinking, learn about music elements, and support the basic curricula. **Assignment:** Design a lesson plan that imitates, explores, and creates with music. Center your activities around an academic topic. Try the lesson with a child (children) and write a description of this experience including an evaluation of the strong/weak moments. Due next week. Bring in some object that you can tell a story about.

WEEK 3: Storytelling and Language Arts. Methods for telling stories in the classroom will include perspectives of students as well as teachers. **Assignment:** Learn a story and tell it in your classroom. Be prepared to orally report on the experience.

WEEK 4: Connecting music/storytelling with a specific curricular area to create multidimensional learning and meaning. This session will assess curriculum from different ethnic views and provide opportunities for high level thinking skills. **Assignment: TBA**

WEEK 5: Using the internet and interactive media to integrate the arts. Assignment will access regional resources and require computer access.

WEEK 6: Movement for the curricula. Kinesthetic experiences weave many of the Gardner intelligences together. A vocabulary for movement will be established and a variety of movement exercises will be explored. Puppetry is a culmination of the other creative arts. Discussions of appropriate productions for young students and growth from puppetry. **Assignment:** Using ideas from the movement session, include an activity using movement with your students. Be prepared to orally report on experience. **Please bring scissors next week.**

WEEK 7: Visual Arts. Certain arts promote creativity more than others. Options will be explored and discussed. How classic and experiential art affect the young child. **Assignment:** Respond to drawing of student with six statements. Turn in responses with copy of drawing.

WEEK 8: Conclusions and final projects.

Attendance to all classes is expected. Absences can affect final grades if student is wavering between grades.