FALL 2008
Tuesday, 12:00 – 2:50
August 26 – December 9, 2008

INSTRUCTOR
Leanne Bowler

CONTACT
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OFFICE HOURS
Tuesdays: 3:00 – 5:00
Thursdays: 3:00 – 5:00
Or by appointment

Literacy begins at birth.

A rich body of reading and story experiences during early childhood provides children with the tools to become lifelong learners. Children’s librarians are uniquely positioned to provide such experiences.

DESCRIPTION: The goal of this course is to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to provide developmentally appropriate services and resources for preschool children, ages 0 to 5 years, and their families and caregivers.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- Understand the role of family and caregivers in language and literacy development;
- Apply developmental and educational theory to the design of services and selection of resources for preschool children;
- Design, implement, and evaluate programming for preschool children;
- Appreciate the visual, oral, aesthetic, emotional, intellectual, and imaginative appeal of library resources for preschool children;
- Identify and discuss current trends, issues, and problems in the area of library services for pre-school children.
COURSE CONTENT

- Developmental theory / Emergent and Family literacy
- Language and reading development
- Pennsylvania Standards for Early Childhood
- Special needs (dealing with disabilities and developmental delays)
- Materials for children, aged 0 – 5.
- Materials and community resources to support parents and caregivers
- Program planning and evaluation
- Story time techniques: dialogic reading, finger plays, flannel board, puppetry, draw-and-tell, music and song, etc.
- Outreach to parents, caregivers, and agencies.
- Designing library spaces for children under 5 years old
- Technology/media for preschool children: resources, formats, issues

BASIC READINGS

- Selected readings, available on reservation at the SIS Library

TEACHING METHODS

- Lecture and demonstration
- Readings
- Group discussion
- In-class activities
- Guest speakers
- Site visits
EVALUATION

- Participation in class activities 20%
- Assignment 1: Assessment of a library space for early childhood 10%
  Due: Tuesday, October 7
- Assignment 2: Program Portfolio***
  Part 1 due Tuesday, October 28 25%
  Part 2 due Tuesday, November 18 25%
- Assignment 3: Comparative book review 20%
  Due: Tuesday, December 2

***BONUS: Chance to win an award for best Program Portfolio from “Beginning with Books”. Details provided in class.

POLICIES FOR CLASS SUBMISSIONS

- Assignments are due by midnight on the date noted above.
- Label the assignment:
  - On the title page, provide the following details: The title of your assignment, your name, the course number, the assignment number, the term, the year.
  - On each subsequent page, provide a header or footer with the following information: Your name, the course number, the assignment number, the term, the year.
    - e.g. SueStudent_LIS2970_Assign1_Fall08
- Staple all pages together. Don’t fold the corner and hope it all sticks together!
- For electronic submissions:
  - Label electronic files. Include in the file name the following details: Your name(s), the course number, the assignment, the term, the year.
    - e.g. SueStudent_LIS2970_Assign1_Fall08
COMPETENCIES ADDRESSED BY THIS COURSE

Association for Library Service to Children:
http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/alscresources/forlibrarians/professionaldev/competencies.cfm

- Knowledge of client group (specifically, children under 5 years old and their families)
- Administrative and Management skills
- Communication skills
- Materials and collection development.
- Programming skills
- Advocacy, public relations, and networking skills

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

- Students are expected to maintain a high level of integrity in all their work. All students are expected to have read and understood, and to follow the Student Obligations for Academic Integrity. (http://www.sis.pitt.edu/academics/integrity.html).

  - Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in a grade of “F” (failure).

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- If you have a special need (physical or learning impairments), notify the instructor within the first two weeks of the term in order to make accommodations in the course.

- If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union (412-648-7890/TTY: 412-383-7366) as early as possible in the term. You should also consult the office’s website www.drs.pitt.edu. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodation for this course.

- If you need to miss a class due to religious observances, please notify the instructor in advance and make alternative arrangements for the material that you miss.
COMMUNICATION POLICY

- Please turn off all electronic devices during the class period.

- Respectful interaction with your colleagues, the professor, and all guest speakers is expected.

- You are part of a community of learners. In discussion groups (in-class and online), please listen to your colleagues, read their postings, and respond thoughtfully.

- I will respond to your email as quickly as possible. Email posted to me on a holiday will be answered no earlier than the first working day following the holiday. Email posted to me in the evening will be answered no earlier than the next work day.

- Please include your full name (first name and surname) on all email.