

Teaching English in Early Childhood Education

Code: 106450
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500797 Early Childhood Education	OT	4	2

Contact

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: english (eng)
Some groups entirely in English: Yes
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Teachers

Berta Torras Vila

Prerequisites

Minimum language requirement: CEFR B1.2.

Objectives and Contextualisation

This elective course aims at providing an introduction to teaching and learning the English language in pre-primary education. It is a key subject for those student teachers who plan to teach English in the future.

It has two main goals: (a) to help future teachers gain knowledge, develop teaching strategies and become familiar with those tools and resources necessary to teach English efficiently in Early Childhood Education classrooms; and (b) to promote critical thinking on teaching English to very young learners.

Competences

- Being able to encourage an initial approach to a foreign language.
- Deal effectively with language learning situations in multicultural and multilingual contexts.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the aims, curricular contents and criteria of evaluation of Infant Education
- Demonstrate knowledge of the evolution of nonverbal communication and language in early childhood, and be able to identify possible dysfunctions and ensure proper development.
- Demonstrating knowledge of the evolution of non-verbal communication and language in early childhood, knowing how to identify possible dysfunctions and ensuring their proper development.
- Know and master oral and written expression techniques.
- Know the language, reading and writing curriculum at this stage as well as theories on the acquisition and development of relevant learning.
- Promote speaking and writing skills.
- Properly express oneself orally and in writing and master the use of different expression techniques.
- Recognize and evaluate the social reality and the interrelation between factors involved as necessary anticipation of action.

- Take sex- or gender-based inequalities into consideration when operating within one's own area of knowledge.
- Understand oral tradition and folklore.
- Understand the learning process of reading and writing and how to teach it. Address language learning situations in multilingual contexts. Recognize and value the appropriate use of verbal and non-verbal language.

Learning Outcomes

1. Acquire the relevant knowledge related to the oral language curriculum at this stage as well as theories on the acquisition and development of learning related to it.
2. Communicate using language that is not sexist or discriminatory.
3. Describe the evolution of language in early childhood and know how to identify possible dysfunctions.
4. Knowing how to analyse aspects of the evolution of non-verbal communication and language in early childhood, identifying possible dysfunctions and suggesting proposals for its proper development.
5. Knowing how to analyse different meta language learning situations in multilingual contexts.
6. Knowing how to use language strategies that aid and stimulate the development of children's speaking capacities.
7. Knowing how to use tools and strategies to generate interest in order to understand and communicate in a third language.
8. Knowing how to use verbal and non-verbal expression techniques that aid communication and linguistic interaction with children.
9. Master the use of different expression techniques and express oneself adequately both orally and in writing in situations in the professional field.
10. Orally and in writing explain the objectives, curriculum content and evaluation criteria of spoken language in infant education.
11. Recognising and evaluating the social reality and the interrelationship of the factors involved, as a necessary prelude to action.
12. Understand the linguistic effects of contact with language in learning situations.
13. Using stories, poems and tones of voice characteristic of the culture of the target language and appropriate for infant education.

Content

1. Early Years Curriculum in Catalonia. Activities to promote communication and speaking skills.
 - Teaching foreign languages in multilingual milieus. Pluralistic approaches to languages and culture in Catalonia. Tasks to promote the development of children's plurilingual and pluricultural competence in early childhood education.
 - Designing activities to promote early second/foreign language learning.
2. Verbal and non-verbal communication. Language play and creativity in early foreign language learning.
3. Teaching resources: drama techniques, songs, stories, and poetry to support literacy and language development in early childhood education.

Methodology

In this course we will gain theoretical knowledge needed to develop skills to teach English in Early Childhood Education. Theory will be combined with practice contextualised within the framework of the Catalan curriculum for the area of English. We will analyze and create real classroom tasks, activities and resources and we will provide ample opportunities to share teaching strategies, didactic materials and digital tools. Students will be expected to work individually, in pairs and/or small groups to meet the course goals and requirements.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Direct instruction	45	1.8	12, 2, 10, 13, 11, 5, 7, 8
Type: Supervised			
Teacher-student conferences	30	1.2	12, 2, 9, 10, 11
Type: Autonomous			
Papers and activities directly related to the contents of the subject.	75	3	12, 2, 9, 10, 13, 4, 7

Assessment

- 1) All assignments are compulsory, including attendance (80%).
- 2) Assignments are marked from 0-10. To pass the course ALL assignments must obtain a minimum score of 5.
- 3) Students cannot obtain a PASS mark if their assignments are too faulty.
- 4) Any form of plagiarism in one of the assignments results will FAIL the course.
- 5) Assignments must contain references cited following the rules of APA citation style.

Retake session: Friday 7th July 2023 from 8:30pm to 10:30pm.

Only those students who have a pass mark in 3 out of the 4 evaluation tasks are allowed to participate in the retake session.

At the retake session, students can only take a maximum mark of 5 out of 10.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
1 expository and reflective essay to discuss methodological issues related to the topics dealt with in class or in the course readings (individual task)	30%	0	0	12, 2, 1, 11, 4, 5, 7, 6
Attendance and active participation (individual)	10%	0	0	12, 4, 6
Designing and presenting a teaching sequence. (Group work)	30%	0	0	2, 3, 9, 10, 13, 1, 7, 8, 6
Planning and presenting four activities to teach very young children English (Pair work)	20%	0	0	9, 10, 13, 8, 6
Selecting and telling a story in class. Elaborating a reading card (individual work)	10%	0	0	9, 13, 8

Bibliography

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Software

No special software is required to enrol in this course.