



# DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA

## **Foundations of Learning** **ECE 9088 3 Graduate-Level Credits/Units** Instructor – Erin Mengeu Email - [emengeu@dominicancaonline.com](mailto:emengeu@dominicancaonline.com)

### **Course Syllabus**

#### **Course Overview:**

Discover strategies that provide students with the tools necessary for learning. Developmental growth is the key to overall achievement and begins in early learning years. Explore a framework that builds a firm foundation for learning and be inspired to focus on areas of developmental growth: *executive function, growth mindset, motor development, sensory integration, and foundations of literacy*. Create a plan for implementing strategies that develop mentally, emotionally, and physically healthy learners.

#### **Course Objectives: This course will give students the opportunity to:**

- Explore a framework for developing a F.I.R.M Foundation for Learning. Reflect on your own classroom and share strategies you use in your classroom that fit into this framework. Research what others are doing in the field and make a plan for what you would like to implement in each of the 4 areas of the F.I.R.M. framework.
- Discover the different areas of developmental growth and how they contribute to student behavior, achievement, and building a foundation for learning.
- Explore each of the areas of developmental growth. Reflect on how your practices support these areas.
- Explore Developmentally Appropriate Pedagogy: Explain the different teaching pedagogies and which you feel to be the best fit for the age of the students you teach.

## Course Relation to CCS or other Professional Standards

Standard I: Using Knowledge of Child Development to Understand the Whole Child

Standard II: Partnering with Families and Communities

Standard VI: Managing the Environment for Development and Learning

Standard VII: Planning for Development and Learning Standard VIII: Implementing Instruction for Development and Learning

Standard VIII: Implementing Instruction for Development and Learning

Standard IX: Reflecting on Teaching Young Children

## Course Modules

<b>Module 1: Building a F.I.R.M. Foundation for Learning</b>	
<b>Objective</b>	<p>Identify the four areas described in the framework for building a F.I.R.M. foundation for learning.</p> <p>Reflect on your classroom and identify strategies that you currently use that fit into this framework.</p> <p>Observe what others in the field are doing and identify new strategies to implement in each of the 4 areas of the F.I.R.M. framework.</p>
<b>Assignment(s) Activities and Needed Materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read <i>SLOW DOWN! Children are Learning!</i> Read: Part One (Intro-Chapter 2)</li> <li>● Observe - Spend time observing others in the field (this can be in other teachers' classrooms or reading blogs of early childhood teachers who share their ideas)</li> <li>● Reflect - Identify strategies you already use and explain new strategies you would like to implement in your classroom.</li> <li>● Complete the chart titled: Building Blocks for a F.I.R.M. Foundation for Learning in Moodle to document strategies you use in the four areas described in the framework for building a F.I.R.M. foundation for learning.</li> <li>● Write a one-page reflection describing what strategies you plan to use in your classroom that will help students build a F.I.R.M. foundation for learning.</li> </ul>
<b>Assessment</b>	<p>The Course Assessment Rubric will be used to assess if the module objective(s) were met. Grades and comments will be issued via the LMS</p>

<b>Module 2: Developmental Growth</b>	
<b>Objective</b>	Discover the fundamental areas of developmental growth and how they contribute to student behavior, achievement, and building a foundation for learning.
<b>Assignment(s) Activities and Needed Materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read: <i>SLOW DOWN! Children are Learning!</i> Read: Part Two (Chapter 3-9)</li> <li>● Reflect: Which of the 6 areas of Developmental Growth are a strength of yours? Which areas are weaknesses?</li> <li>● Research <a href="#">Pinterest</a>, educational blogs, videos, etc. Explore strategies that can be used in each of the 6 areas of developmental growth. Create a wish list of resources you may need to add to your classroom. <i><a href="#">(if you'd like to search a list of classroom resources broken down into the areas of developmental growth- click here!)</a></i></li> </ul> <p>Write a 2-page paper explaining the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How these fundamental areas contribute to student behavior, achievement, and their learning foundation.</li> <li>● The areas of developmental growth that you feel are easy and difficult to implement into your classroom.</li> <li>● Is there an expert (specialist) in your building that you could observe or ask for help with those areas?</li> <li>● What resources did you find while researching these areas that you would like to implement into your classroom?</li> </ul>
<b>Assessment</b>	The Course Assessment Rubric will be used to assess if the module objective(s) were met. Grades and comments will be issued via the LMS

<b>Module 3: Explore Teaching Methods/Pedagogy</b>	
<b>Objective</b>	Identify “Little Moves”(specific strategies) “Big Moves” (teaching methods/pedagogy) that you can make in your classroom for each fundamental area of developmental growth.
<b>Assignment(s) Activities and Needed Materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read: <i>SLOW DOWN! Children are Learning!</i> Part 3 (Chapters 10-11)</li> <li>● Watch the video- <a href="#">Executive Functions Skills: Foster with Partner time Play</a></li> <li>● Watch the video: <a href="#">I Can't Do It, YET!: Building a culture of growth mindset in preschool</a></li> <li>● Watch the video: <a href="#">Classroom Sensory Activities &amp; Tools to promote sensory</a></li> <li>● Watch the video: <a href="#">The whole child approach</a></li> <li>● Watch the video: <a href="#">Reggio Emilia Approach</a></li> <li>● Watch the video: <a href="#">Inquiry in Early Childhood</a></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Watch the video: <a href="#">Learning Through Play</a></li> <li>● Make a list of “Little Moves” and “Big Moves” that you learned to be an important part of an Early Childhood Classroom.</li> </ul>
<b>Assessment</b>	The Course Assessment Rubric will be used to assess if the module objective(s) were met. Grades and comments will be issued via the LMS

<b>Module 4: A F.I.R.M. Foundation through Developmental Growth</b>	
<b>Objective</b>	Design a plan for your classroom that provides tools and strategies to cultivate an environment that builds a foundation for learning.
<b>Assignment(s) Activities and Needed Materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reflect on your current teaching methods/pedagogy.</li> <li>● Complete the chart titled: Strategies and Tools for Developmental Growth (found in Moodle) to show tools and strategies for each of the fundamental areas of developmental growth.</li> <li>● Share your preference for developmentally appropriate teaching methods/pedagogy. (This can be done by writing a paper, recording a video, PowerPoint, etc.)</li> <li>● Explain how you plan to use this method/pedagogy in your own classroom.</li> </ul>
<b>Assessment</b>	The Course Assessment Rubric will be used to assess if the module objective(s) were met. Grades and comments will be issued via the LMS

<b>Module 5: Supporting families to implement developmental growth strategies for building a foundation for learning.</b>	
<b>Objective</b>	Create a tool that will support families with understanding developmental growth and how they can support growth at home.
<b>Assignment(s) Activities and Needed Materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Watch the video: <a href="#">Building Relationships with Families</a></li> <li>● Watch the video: <a href="#">How Parents can help their child with executive function.</a></li> <li>● Explore: <a href="#">Big Life Journal Resources for Parents</a></li> <li>● Read: <a href="#">Teaching Growth Mindset Home/School Connection</a></li> <li>● Read and Explore: <a href="#">Home-School Connection Blog Articles</a></li> <li>● Write a Reflection sharing 5 practical tasks that you can do to foster a home-school connection with your students' families.</li> <li>● Create a tool (handout, PowerPoint, flier, video, etc.) that educates and provides parents with practical strategies they can use in their home to promote the 6 areas of developmental growth.</li> </ul>

<b>Assessment</b>	The Course Assessment Rubric will be used to assess if the module objective(s) were met. Grades and comments will be issued via the LMS
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