



# **Motor Skills and Sensory Experiences in the Early Childhood Classroom**

## **ECE 9246**

**3 Semester Credits/Units**

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## **Course Syllabus**

### **Overview**

Discover how developing strong Motor Skills and sensory integration can benefit your students' ability to learn. Reflect on your teaching environment and create a plan to implement fine motor activities and a balanced sensory diet. You will conduct your own research and leave this course with practical ideas that are ready to be implemented in your classroom.

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

- Understand the development of motor skills.
- Explore activities that can be integrated into your classroom.
- Discover how we use our senses to understand the world around us.
- Reflect on the amount of sensory integration used in your current teaching.
- Explore different ways that elementary teachers can provide the appropriate tools for learning through our senses.
- Develop a plan for implementing sensory integration into our daily lessons and activities.

### **Course Relation to Early Childhood Generalists 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

### **How to Submit Coursework**

Each completed assignment in this course is submitted to the instructor for review. Follow directions at the end of each assignment on how to prepare and submit your assignments. Name each file submitted with your last name and assignment number (i.e. BrownAssignment3. Make sure you place your full name, course number and assignment number at the top of each document page. You will receive feedback from your instructor within 5 days indicating successful completion of the assignment or the need for revision. Assignment grades will be averaged for the final course grade.

## Course Modules

There are 4 modules which comprise this course. The first 2 modules focus on Motor Skills while modules 3 and 4 will help you gain an understanding of the importance of sensory integration in Early Childhood.

### MODULE 1: Motor Skills: An overview of Gross and Fine Motor Development

<b>Overview</b>	You will gain an understanding of Gross and Fine Motor Skills and how they develop. You will take time to reflect on your current classroom procedures.
<b>Goal</b>	The teacher will discover how developing motor skills support learning and achievement. They will also analyze their own classroom in regards to supporting the development of these skills.
<b>Assignment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Read the article: <a href="#">What are Motor Skills</a> and conduct some research of your own to help you understand Motor Skill Development and its importance to academic achievement.</li><li>● Watch the following videos<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <a href="#">Gross Motor vs. Fine Motor What's the Difference?</a></li><li>○ <a href="#">Motor Development from birth-age 5.</a></li><li>○ <a href="#">Piaget Theory of Cognitive Ability: Stage 1 Motor and Sensory</a></li></ul></li><li>● Write a 1-page summary explaining the difference between gross motor and fine motor. Include your own thoughts about how Motor Development plays a role in academic achievement.</li><li>● Write a 1-page reflection analyzing your own current classroom in regard to the development of motor skills. How much motor skill development happens on a daily basis in your classroom?</li></ul>

### MODULE 2: Discover strategies for developing fine motor.

<b>Overview</b>	Research strategies to develop fine motor skills.
<b>Goal</b>	Throughout this module, the teacher will have discovered how to implement strategies that will develop motor skills in their classroom.
<b>Assignment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Read the article: <a href="#">How to Integrate Motor Skills into your School and Classroom.</a></li><li>● Take time to do a little research! Find teacher blogs that share ideas for implementing motor development. Look specifically for ideas for implementing Fine Motor in your daily lesson plans.</li><li>● Take time to create fine motor bins, centers, or other activities and strategies for working those motor skills.</li><li>● Document 15 hours of work you do researching, creating, designing, planning, and implementing fine motor activities for your classroom. Use the document titled: Research Hours Log found in Moodle.</li></ul>

### MODULE 3: Exploring Sensory Integration

<b>Overview</b>	Discover how students learn through their senses. Gain an understanding of what sensory integration is and why it is important for all learners.
<b>Goal</b>	The teacher will have discovered the importance of differentiating through sensory integration. They will reflect on how much sensory integration they are currently implementing.
<b>Assignment</b>	<p>Research Sensory Integration and how other teachers are integrating it into their classrooms. Listed below are expert blog posts you can explore.</p> <p><a href="#">A Differentiated Kindergarten: Sensory Tables</a></p> <p><a href="#">10 Tools for a Sensory Filled Classroom</a></p> <p><a href="#">Be Their Difference: Could Sensory Integration Be The Difference in your Classroom?</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Complete the Sensory Integration Table found in Moodle. Reflect on what areas you do well and what areas you could implement more sensory learning.</li><li>● Conduct some of your own research (log your hours in the Research Log) to help you find activities and strategies to implement in the areas of your classroom that you feel are lacking. The goal is to have a well rounded Sensory Diet happening in your classroom.</li></ul>

### MODULE 4: Make your Plan for Sensory Integration

<b>Overview</b>	Use your research and develop a plan for sensory integration in your classroom
<b>Goal</b>	The teacher will be able to develop and share their plan for sensory integration in their classroom.
<b>Assignment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Describe your plan for sensory integration. Create a tool that fosters learning in each of the sensory areas to create a balanced sensory diet. Show proof (pictures) of your strategies in action or an example of how they will be used. You can submit a document, slide show, video, etc. to show how you are implementing tools for each of the 7 senses.</li></ul>

## Course Assessment Rubric

<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>ACCEPTABLE</b>	<b>NOT ACCEPTABLE</b>
Meets or Exceeds Course Objectives: <b>A to A-</b>	Majority of Work Meets Course Objectives; <b>B+ to B-</b>	Needs Considerable Improvement: Resubmit Work Suggested: <b>C or below</b>
All work submitted reflects in-depth understanding of course objectives.	Most work submitted reflects in-depth understanding of course objectives.	Work shows little or no in-depth understanding of course objectives.
Assignment responses show evidence of new knowledge evidenced by thoughtful, detailed and accurate assignment responses.	Most assignment responses show evidence of new knowledge evidenced by thoughtful, detailed and accurate assignment responses.	Responses show little to no evidence of new knowledge as evidenced by lack of thoughtful, detailed and accurate assignment responses.
Work submitted was organized and clearly articulated. The student carefully followed all assignment instructions. The instructor did not have to provide continual assignment clarification or request revisions.	Most work submitted was organized and clearly articulated. The student carefully followed all assignment instructions. The instructor had to provide continual assignment clarification or ask for revisions.	Work submitted was not organized or not clearly articulated. The instructor had to provide constant clarification and ask for continued revisions.
Assignment content and required projects were original.	Assignment content and required projects were original.	Evidence that not all assignment content and required projects were original.
Work is free of spelling and/or grammatical errors.	Work has few spelling and/or grammatical errors.	Work has numerous spelling and/or grammatical errors.

### Motor Skills and Sensory Integration Course Bibliography

- E. (2020, May 19). *Could Sensory Integration “Be The Difference” in your classroom? Be Their Difference.* <https://betheirdifference.com/could-sensory-integration-be-the-difference-in-your-classroom/>
- HSC Winnipeg. (2017, November 20). *Fine Motor Development From Birth to 5.* YouTube. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LiTuGv\\_GeaE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LiTuGv_GeaE)
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- Otr/L, A. A. F. M. (2018, July 26). *10 Tools for a Sensory Informed Classroom.* Harkla. <https://harkla.co/blogs/special-needs/sensory-tools-school>

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