

DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA

Motor Skills and Sensory Integration in the Early Childhood Classroom

EDUO 9246 - 3 Graduate-Level Credits/Units

Instructor – Erin Mengeu

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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 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	
Objective	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.
Assignment(s) Activities and Needed Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read the article: What are Motor Skills and conduct some research of your own to help you understand Motor Skill Development and its importance to academic achievement. ● Watch the following videos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gross Motor vs. Fine Motor What's the Difference? ○ Motor Development from birth-age 5. ○ Piaget Theory of Cognitive Ability: Stage 1 Motor and Sensory ● 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. ● 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?
Assessment	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

MODULE 2: Discover strategies for developing fine motor	
Objective	Throughout this module, the teacher will discover how to implement strategies that will develop motor skills in their classroom.
Assignment(s) Activities and Needed Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read the article: How to Integrate Motor Skills into your School and Classroom. ● 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 skills in your daily lesson plans. ● Take time to create fine motor bins, centers, or other activities and strategies for working those motor skills. ● 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.

Assessment	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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MODULE 3: Exploring Sensory Integration	
Objective	The teacher will have discovered the importance of differentiating through sensory integration. They will reflect on how much sensory integration they are currently implementing.
Assignment(s) Activities and Needed Materials	<p>Research Sensory Integration and look for ways that other teachers are integrating it into their classrooms. Listed below are expert blog posts you can explore.</p> <p>A Differentiated Kindergarten: Sensory Tables 10 Tools for a Sensory Filled Classroom Be Their Difference: Could Sensory Integration Be The Difference in your Classroom?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the Sensory Integration Table found in Moodle. Reflect on what areas you do well and what areas you could implement more sensory learning. • 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.
Assessment	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

MODULE 4: Make your Plan for Sensory Integration	
Objective	The teacher will be able to develop and share their plan for sensory integration in their classroom.
Assignment(s) Activities and Needed Materials	<p>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.</p> <p>You can submit a document, slide show, video, etc. to show how you are implementing tools for each of the 7 senses.</p>
Assessment	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

Motor Skills and Sensory Integration Course Bibliography

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- M. (2019, July 20). *Sensory Tables: One of the Best Tools For Differentiating Your Instruction. I Promise.* Differentiated Kindergarten. <https://differentiatedkindergarten.com/sensory-tables-one-of-best-tools-for/>
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