

NORTH SEATTLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CCE 160, Connecting to Children
D4 – Attending to Initiative Cooperation and Perseverance

SPRING 2010:

Wednesday, 8:30-9:30pm
Room 1409

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Course Description

You use your daily contacts with children (in a center or home, as a parent, teacher, care-giver or nanny) to do 6 weekly investigations and bring those results to class and post online for discussion, for us to construct an understanding of what those investigations mean. In a final Project of Understanding you document the effective use of your understanding in your life with children.

The goal of the Modules is for each participant to come to understand and implement the essential elements of facilitating learning through authentic, warm relationships with each and every child.

The entire CCE 160 Connecting to Children course consists of 4 sequenced modules, each earning 2 quarter credits. Each module is a ten-week study. If it is available, you can enroll in two modules at a time (D1 with D2 and D3 with D4) and complete the study in two quarters. However, we do not allow people to take all four at once. We believe the power of this program derives from the opportunity to apply ideas over time, experiment, discuss with others and return to practice. People change how they are being with children by doing this work. The change is lasting and durable. We think it is best to go slowly, examining one issue at a time, to gradually complete the work over the course of one year.

Course Objectives

Module D1 Expressing Warmth to Children

Discover how you want to respond to children, explore new ways to convey your positive regard, see how to communicate warmth to all the children, and find enhanced effectiveness in teaching young children.

Module D2 Playing Responsively

Define play, distinguish what it means to play responsively with children, see how you play differently with different children, and discover how to use your authentic playfulness to open possibilities you never dreamed were possible both for you and the child.

Module D3 Talking Informatively

Distinguish the types of talk that make demands upon children, practice informing children instead of directing them, fill the children's world with information and complex vocabulary, and reflect upon your effectiveness in how you speak respectfully to young children.

Module D4 Attending to Initiative, Cooperation, and Perseverance

Explore those aspects of children's actions that we commonly call "taking initiative", "working cooperatively", and "persevering" through times of difficulty to accomplish certain ends. Create a Learning Story of one child's initiative as it becomes either cooperation or perseverance. Share that story with this community and then with the child and the child's parents.

Course Requirements

Portfolio of Progress

Each 2-credit module offers the opportunity to create an individual portfolio that traces your steps in creating a deep and durable understanding and serves as a repository for your Project and Expression of Understanding. You may want to create book of the printed documents to give you something to show to others or have it stored on a disk. Not only will you have college credit from North Seattle Community college to transfer to other colleges, you will have a portfolio that you can show an employer (and get a raise!). Similarly, if you want Connecting to Children to apply to programs of study at other colleges, your portfolio can have significant weight when you ask them to honor these credits it in their program. The portfolio is your documentation of this experience.

Project of Understanding

Assignment #7 in modules 1, 2 and 4 require you to demonstrate the ability to use new understanding to successfully influence the lives of young children; in module 3, you will demonstrate the successful influence on yourself. In order to get credit for the course, you must document how change occurs in children or oneself. This project communicates, to others that care if you are a good parent or educator, the story of applying the understanding and proving it works. This story is created with pictures and text in a PowerPoint or Word document or other product. The project (A7) is presented in class, and as much material as possible is submitted online in Angel (at the least, a photo or description of what you presented in class). It is accessible only to those in this section of this course. You can also print or project this story so others who care (other teachers, the parents of the children, and the school or community) can see it. In order to get credit for the course, this Project of Understanding is evaluated by the instructor. It must meet specific criteria.

Expression of Understanding

At the end of each module, in Assignment #8, you convey, in a form you freely choose, an expression of the deeper significance to you of the work you have done on the module. You express to others here what these discussions and your project has meant to you personally. The challenge here is to find a way to convey the depth of the impact in a poem, video, audio file, picture, story, letter, chart, painting, quilt, sculpture, or song (or any other way you wish). As with the Project (A7), this Expression (A8) is presented in class, and as much material as possible is submitted online in Angel (at the least, a photo or description of what you presented in class).

Community

Respect for diversity is a core value of North Seattle Community College. Our college community explicitly fosters an optimal learning climate in an environment of mutual respect and care. We recognize and celebrate individual differences, for those differences bring beauty and growth to all of us. We invite you to add your voices to our collective wisdom with the explicit responsibility to monitor your contributions to ensure each of us remains open to the others, is honest, authentic, caring of others, and willing to be cared for.

Course Materials

Each task is presented in a .pdf file, and, excepting but the Project (A7) and Expression (A8), each has a Word file associated with it, to be used as a form for posting the response. You can use the Word document or your own. The one provided was created to be sure that all items are submitted completely, and all assignments must be

submitted as attachments in Word online. There is no text nor any assigned readings, online or otherwise. We study the children and ourselves.

Grades

There are 100 total points possible. Each assignment is worth 10 points: the 6 investigations (A1-A6), the Project (A7) and the Expression (A8) and the Reflection Paper (A9). Attendance is worth 2 points, and Participation (self-evaluated) is worth 8 points. There are 3 extra credit points that can be earned by responding in discussion forums to peers' posts; you will earn 0.1 point per post, for replies to the 6 investigations, **that are posted before the next assignment is due**, up to 30 posts (3 credits) total for the course. Also, 2 points of extra credit are granted for perfect attendance. NOTE: It is possible that I may excuse your absence, but only if you communicate to me (email, phone, text) before the class that you will be absent, and why.

You can apply for that certificate when you register for Module D4 (or later). The actual printed certificate will be mailed to you four to six months after the course ends.

With the agreement of the instructor, you may arrange to complete tasks within an agreed upon time after the term ends. The instructor will then issue an I (incomplete) grade for the course, but an I grade will not be issued without a clear agreement and deadline. If the work is not completed within the deadline, the I grade remains on your NSCC transcript and cannot be changed. If you want to continue, you will have to enroll in the class again.

GRADE SUMMARY

10	A 1. Concept of Initiative
10	A 2. Initiative Study
10	A 3. Concept of Cooperation
10	A 4. Cooperation Study
10	A 5. Concept of Perseverance
10	A 6. Perseverance Study
10	A 7. Project (of Understanding)
10	A 8. Expression (of Understanding)
10	A 9. Final Reflection
10	<u>A 10. Attendance & Participation</u>
100 pts	TOTAL + 5 pts extra credit

+ A 1-6 only: up to 3 pts extra credit for responses to others' posts (0.1 point per post, if posted by following Sunday).

+ 2 pts extra credit for perfect attendance