

ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY

NEW ENGLAND

A Program Series in Nature-based Early Childhood Education



SUMMER 2018

NBEC REQUIRED COURSES:

Risk Management for Nature-based Early Childhood Education

EDP 5620 held in Alna, ME 2 credits
May 14–18, 2018 9:00 am–5:00 pm Anne Stires

Children enjoy learning that is challenging and adventurous, where they can reach beyond their abilities and test themselves. Nature readily provides such experiences. Being outdoors with children in all kinds of weather requires another level of risk management beyond fire drills and correct hand washing instructions, and teachers must prepare to provide it. Topics that will be considered in this course include: hazard identification, appropriate planning for risk, what kinds of risky play to allow and which to discourage, and research on the relationship between nature play and overall health and development. The course will include opportunities to observe a nature-based early childhood program in action.

Nature-based Early Childhood Curriculum

EDC 5090 2 credits
July 9–13, 2018 9:00 am–5:00 pm Eliza Minnucci

Nature preschools and forest kindergartens have a unique approach to curriculum, different than conventional indoor early childhood centers. This course will focus on the distinctive elements of outdoor programming for children aged three to six. Topics will include the value of unstructured play, fostering independence, nature and language development, the balance of indoors and outdoors experience, interfacing with the conventional elementary curriculum in literacy, math and science, and connections to the community.

OTHER POTENTIAL ELECTIVES:

Childhood & Nature

EDT 5360 3 credits
July 16–20, 2018 9:00 am–5:00 pm Eliza Minnucci

When children have access to free play in natural areas, they do the same things, around the country and around the world. They make special places, go on adventures, develop fantasy games, go hunting and gathering, and craft small worlds. These recurrent play patterns can be used as design principles to help structure engaging outdoor activities with children. During our days together, we'll recollect our own favorite childhood experiences and we'll spend time outside exploring some of these recurrent play patterns. We'll discuss the research on the relationship between childhood play in nature and environmental behavior in adults. Then we'll use these experiences to design new approaches to nature programming at schools, nature centers, and environmental programs.

First Six Weeks of School

EDC 6240 1 credit
June 25–29, 2018 9:00 am–12:00 pm Deborah Kardane

Using the book, *The First Six Weeks of School* (Denton and Kriete) as a starting point, participants will have opportunities to plan for the all-important opening weeks of schools in their own classrooms. Topics to be considered will include establishing routines, rules and consequences, creating a sense of belonging and significance for all students, and introducing academic curriculum while simultaneously building the social skills necessary for successful learning in an active and interactive environment. Approaches to classroom management in this course are based upon the work of Rudolph Driekurs and Jane Nelson and approaches such as Democratic Classrooms and The Responsive Classroom.

FALL 2018

NBEC ELECTIVE COURSES:

EDC 5030
Natural History for Early Childhood
September 15–16 David Sobel
9:00 am–5:00 pm & Ellen Doris

EDT 5100
Landscape Analysis and Design for Nature Play
October 13–14 Nancy Striniste
9:00 am–5:00 pm

EDC 6650
Movement and Storytelling in the EC Classroom
November 17–18 Carla Comey
9:00 am–5:00 pm

OTHER POTENTIAL ELECTIVES:

To be announced.

For more information on the Nature-based Early Childhood Certificate Program and Education Department Masters programs, contact Ellen Keech in the Admissions Office at 800-552-8380, or email: admissions.ane@antioch.edu. www.antioch.edu/new-england/nature-based

