

ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY

NEW ENGLAND

A Program Series in *Nature-based Early Childhood Education*



SUMMER 2020

NbEC REQUIRED COURSES:

Nature-based Early Childhood Curriculum

EDC 5090

July 6–10, 2020

9:00 am–5:00 pm

2 credits

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.

Risk Management for Nature-based Early Childhood Education

EDP 5620

July 13–17, 2020

This course will take place in Keene, NH.

9:00 am–5:00 pm

2 credits

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.

NbEC ELECTIVES:

Childhood and Nature

EDT 5360

July 6–10, 2020

9:00 am–5:00 pm

1 credit

Aimee Arandia Ostenen

This course has an online component that begins in early May.

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.

Ecology of the Imagination

EDC 5280.NE-A

July 22–23, 2020

9:00 am–5:00 pm

1 credit

Paul Bocko

This course investigates ways in which children's nature play can be used to invigorate the writing process. Making forts, hunting and gathering, constructing small worlds, going on adventures, and fantasy play are children's instinctive ways of being in the natural world and these activities can be used as the basis for curriculum. We'll use the surrounding neighborhood and hills to reconnect with childhood play. Out of these natural world experiences, each participant will craft a finished piece of writing by the end of the week.

FALL 2020

NBEC ELECTIVE COURSES:

EDC 5030.NE

1 credit

Natural History for Early Childhood

September 12–13, 2020

9:00 am–5:00 pm

David Sobel

& Ellen Doris

EDT 5100

1 credit

Landscape Analysis and Design for Nature Play

October 10–11, 2020

9:00 am–5:00 pm

Nancy Striniste

IDS 5000-A

Nature-based Leadership 3 credits (optional)

October 17–19, 2020

9:00 am–5:00 pm

Cheryl Charles

EDC 6650

1 credit

Movement and Storytelling in the EC Classroom

November 14–15, 2020

9:00 am–5:00 pm

Carla Beebe Comey

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



