Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher (ECCAT): Language and Literacy

▶ **Audience:** *Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher (ECCAT)*

▶ **Type:** *13-Week Time-Bound Course*

▶ **Duration:** *September 7, 2022-December 13, 2022 and January 4, 2023-April 4, 2023*

Description: The Early Childhood Language and Literacy course has been specifically designed for early childhood educators working in West Virginia Universal Pre-K and teacher assistants working in WV pre-k and kindergarten classrooms who are seeking the Early Childhood Assistant Teacher Authorization. This includes collaborative classrooms and individuals seeking courses to meet the needs for the Community Program Authorization. Participants of this course will be able to facilitate developmentally appropriate activities that will promote an understanding of language and literacy learning for early childhood students in their classes.

Course Goals:

▶ *Understand the stages of language development.*

▶ *Learn strategies for conducting open ended conversations.*

▶ *Expand and extend children's vocabulary through conversation.*

▶ *Implement developmentally appropriate listening and speaking activities.*

▶ *Have students complete an interest survey.*

▶ *Learn what a Project Approach involves.*

▶ *Plan and develop a project "Study" based on student interest surveys.*

▶ *Learn strategies for effective storytelling and read aloud sessions.*

▶ *Select appropriate books for intentional purposes.*

▶ *Develop vocabulary building techniques.*

▶ *Plan components of a family literacy pack.*

▶ *Define phonological awareness.*

▶ *Understand the importance of phonological awareness in the early childhood setting.*

▶ *Review and practice phonological strategies.*

▶ *Create one listening activity.*

▶ *Create one alliteration activity.*

▶ *Create one rhyming activity.*

▶ *Create one syllable activity.*

▶ *Recognize a functional print rich environment and its importance.*

▶ *Learn how to design a functional print rich environment.*

▶ *Complete a print walk in an early childhood setting.*

▶ *Develop functional print rich activities.*

Session Overviews

▶ **Session One - Language Development**
Children develop oral language skills through the understanding and communication of complex ideas. Language development is strongly linked to early literacy; becoming literate is a developmental process. To be successful in reading and writing, children need to be able to listen and speak. In order for children to become effective communicators, educators will understand the stages of language development and will utilize this knowledge in program planning.

▶ **Session Two - Investigations into Language and Literacy**
A Project Approach is a specific project-based study that builds on children's interests. Since children enjoy learning about the world around them, studies should be about real-world topics. The Project Approach involves children in studies of things nearby or that they have experienced. Topics that interest them will be worth knowing more about.

▶ **Session Three - Read Aloud and Storytelling**
The single most important activity for building knowledge for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children. Books are more than stories; they're a key to unlocking the potential in every child. Storytelling is an age-appropriate learning tool to promote young children's school readiness.

▶ **Session Four - Phonological Awareness Part 1**
Phonological awareness is the sensitivity to the structure of language. Children who can detect and manipulate sounds in speech are phonologically aware. Phonological awareness consists of skills that typically develop gradually and sequentially throughout early childhood.

▶ **Session Five - Phonological Awareness Part 2**
This is a continuation of Session 4. In this session, you will take your previously gained knowledge and apply that information in your final course project study. During this session, you will create phonological awareness activities for your project.

▶ **Session Six - Creating a Functional Print Rich Environment**
It is important to create an early childhood environment that is full of meaningful print. In this session, you will learn how to incorporate functional print throughout your classroom.

Course Grades

All grades in the course gradebook must be a checkmark for successful course completion. A checkmark indicates that all work has been completed and the work meets the expectations for that assignment. Quiz scores must meet the minimum expectations as stated in the course.