BEd (Early Childhood Education and Special Education)

Thematic talk:
Designing a learning environment for infants and toddlers

Dr Diana Lee
May 25, 2022
THE FIRST 1000 DAYS
The first 1000 days

ZERO TO THREE
Early connections last a lifetime
Bronfenbrenner’s ecological systems theory
Research shows that the environment and experiences of a child’s earliest years can have life-long effects.
Core concepts about infant and toddler development

**Born to learn**

“Children are active participants in their own development, reflecting the intrinsic human drive to explore and master one’s environment”

(Deiner, 2009, p. 20)
Social relationships

“Human relationships and the effects of relationships on relationships, are the building blocks of healthy development”

(Deiner, 2009, p. 20)
DESIGNING A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS
1. The classroom environment is the “third teacher”

2. Teachers and caregivers need to carefully prepare and select materials for indoor and outdoor learning environments

3. Teachers should consider physical, social and intellectual aspects of learning environments when making decisions

(Swim, 2017)
Teacher’s considerations

When making educational decisions on the arrangement of spaces and selection of materials, teachers should begin by reflecting on:

1. the age of children in the classroom
2. children’s needs interest and abilities
3. the Programme’s philosophy
4. curriculum guidelines for developmentally appropriate practice
5. the availability of space and resources

(Swim, 2017)
Calm, safe learning environment

How are the spaces and materials in this photo used to support social relationships and cognitive development?

(Swim, 2017)
Space is arranged for **daily routines**

- [Image of a child putting on shoes](https://www.istockphoto.com/hk/search/2/image?phrase=child+putting+on+shoes)
- [Image of a Montessori toddler entryway](https://www.howwemontessori.com/how-we-montessori/2019/03/the-importance-of-the-montessori-toddler-entryway.html)
Learning centres

Space is arranged for exploration

(Swim, 2017)
Learning centres

How are social relationships and cognitive development supported in these centres?

Role-play corner

Reading corner

https://creative.edu.hk/en/curriculum/#kids1

https://www.akidslife.org/blog/r7i381bmaab3yiarpjd1dz2mxrvqyti-je47c
Learning centres

Water play (Wet); Sand play (Dry)


A balance of real and open-ended materials promotes cognitive development

Independently selected materials promotes social and emotional development

(Swim, 2017)
Courses related to infants and toddlers

(Zero to Three; Zero to Six)

1. Early childhood development
2. Concepts and contexts of early childhood education
3. Risks and resilience in early development
4. Physical and social emotional development of infants and toddlers
5. Cognitive and language development of infants and toddlers
6. Early care and education of infants and toddlers
7. Play and learning in the early years
8. Observation and assessment of children and early childhood programmes
9. Young children, family and the changing world
10. Contemporary issues in child development
11. Developmental neuroscience
Theory, Research and Practice Integration

**Theory/Research**
1. Introduction to research methods
2. Seminar in early childhood education and special education
3. Early childhood education and special education project

**Practice**
1. Professional practicum I (Child care centre) - Two weeks
2. Professional practicum II (Special child care centre) - Six weeks
3. Professional practicum III (Kindergarten) - Eight weeks
ADMISSION TIPS
Entrance Requirements

Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Education and Special Education (6092)

Minimum Level Required

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1st Elective Subject</th>
<th>2nd Elective Subject/M1/M2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Language</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Language</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liberal Studies</td>
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Specific Elective Subjects/Other Requirements

Candidates must be able to communicate effectively and fluently in both Cantonese and English.

HKDSE Scoring Formula

With Reference to Admissions 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HKDSE Scoring Formula</th>
<th>Upper Quartile</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Lower Quartile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.5 x Eng + 1.2 x Chi + Best 3 Subjects</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>25</td>
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</tbody>
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A waiver of University Entrance Requirement (UER) will be granted to JUPAS applicants who unfortunately fail to meet the UER (i.e. “332233” in four core subjects plus two elective subjects) by 1 level in 1 subject, on the condition that the applicants cannot fall below level 2 for any subject stated in the UER. However, the applicants’ total HKDSE score calculated with the programme scoring formula will be deducted by 10%.

In addition, applicants have to include our Programme (6092) as one of their Band A programme choices, have a positive interview outcome, and fulfil any additional programme entrance requirements. This flexible arrangement applies to all HKU undergraduate programmes.
Interviews

- Individual interviews will be held from end of July to early August, 2022
- Interview strategies:
  1. Review what you have written in your application form; Personal Statement; Other Experiences and Achievements in Competitions / Activities (OEA)
  2. Share your experiences in working with children / children with SEN / teaching / coaching
  3. Be yourself