

Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC) Field Experience Survey Results December 2014

Surveys were given to 75 students enrolled in FCS 150 Human Development, December 2014.

FCS 150 Section One – 35 students

FCS 150 Section Two – 40 students

A total of 72 surveys were returned. Numbers below indicate the total responses for each descriptor. Compiled comments are listed below as well.

1=ineffective 2=somewhat effective 3=effective 4=highly effective N/A=unable to rate

| At the end of my field experience I am able to: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | N/A |
|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Identify the differences of cognitive, emotional, social and physical development of young children. | 1 | 4 | 17 | 50 | 0 |
| Engage with young children to assist in their cognitive, emotional, social, and physical development. | 0 | 7 | 19 | 46 | 0 |

Comments:

- I grew tremendously this semester in learning the differences between the domains.
- Sometimes I am unsure of the best way to help a child with their development. It is hard to know what will aid and not hurt their feelings.
- Helped our topics come alive, but with observation and fieldwork is overwhelming (esp. with clinicals and other fieldwork).
- The kids were great and over the semester I was able to observe developments.
- I greatly grew in both areas.
- Kids really did show all aspects and it helped me see them more clearly.
- They do an awesome job.
- The signs on the walls help.
- I am now very aware of all the time and effort that goes in to the development of all these young kids!
- It has been a really good learning experience being with children and observing how children learn, express their emotions, and develop physically.
- The school really cared for the kids and it taught me how to effectively teach a child and aide in their development. I disagree with some of their ways but I walked away with good knowledge.
- I feel pretty confident in these areas.

- I am more of an observationalist, so I know what is going on; however, handling children still makes me nervous.
- Haven't done many hours yet.
- I had plenty of opportunities to observe levels of physical development, however I was not able to engage with kids as much as I had hoped. I think the people in the field experience should be allowed to help in tasks like serving lunch or preparing crafts so that engagement with the kids would be enhanced.
- I learned a lot and it helped to apply it in real world scenarios.
- Field experience at the ECLC was somewhat difficult at first as I'd never spent time with children outside of family members. It was a progressive experience.
- None
- Mrs. Rodeheaver was especially helpful in differentiating between the domains. Her questions at the end of the hour really helped to pinpoint what I saw and label it.
- None.
- The staff was very helpful with helping/guiding me to understand the various forms of development better.
- The lines between cognitive, emotional, social and physical aren't always clear. No one tells us.
- The experiences I had helped make it very easy to identify these things.
- I found it easy to learn about the different domains while observing and working with the children. However, it was harder to deal with these domains and guide the children in their learnings.
- Always good opportunities for domains.
- It is much easier to engage and assist the 4-year-olds than the 3-year-olds.
- Much easier to identify the different types of development.

| My field experience at the ECLC has helped me: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | N/A |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| Gain a deep understanding of the three domains (physical, social/emotional, cognitive). | 2 | 7 | 26 | 37 | 0 |
| By providing opportunities to positively engage with young children and use my skills in positive communication with young children. | 1 | 7 | 17 | 47 | 0 |
| Develop skills in effective communication with young children. | 1 | 10 | 23 | 38 | 1 |

Comments:

- I loved going to the ECLC and feel like I can effectively work with 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds now.
- The "de-briefing" with Vonda afterwards was so helpful to fully understand what I observed.

- Putting what I learned in lecture into practice was really helpful.
- Any experience is effective in improving understanding in development. It's helpful to have it on campus. Unique opportunity.
- I got a lot of practice and noticed a remarkable improvement in communicating with young children.
- It was sometimes difficult to engage in conversation because I could only use "positive communication" and a lot of the times the children wouldn't listen.
- Teachers are great at helping with this.
- I now know how to talk with children and build a relationship with them!
- I didn't understand how nsg had to do with this class but it helped me focus in on how to raise a child and be a good mom.
- In our training, Professor Rogers mentioned trying taking turns vs. sharing. I had an experience at the ECLC that challenged me to use that, and the situation ended positively.
- I tried really hard to connect with the kids, but it was challenging. There were times though that were really great.
- I loved being able to interact with the kids. It's important for me to make time to engage with children because understanding how they think teaches me a lot about people in general.
- Constant engagement with the children helped me gain the necessary skills to communicate with them and identify what was going on with them.
- I feel it has taught me how to more effectively engage with children in a learning/scaffolding/positive way.
- None
- Useful interaction with kids – helped me gain confidence.
- None
- I learned a lot!
- We know "how" to, but applying it is very different.
- Guidance was offered if asked, but teachers were too busy to be teaching college students, as well as herding little ones.
- There were many different ways to connect with the children making learning easy.
- I have been working with children for years prior to this course, so I did not need a foundation to build.
- Great opportunity to learn how to best interact with children.
- I feel as if it was hard at times to engage with the children effectively.
- N/A
- This experience has helped me develop skills to effectively engage with children. But also helped give me real life application for theories learned in class.

| The Lab Teachers: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | N/A |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| Provided a positive role model of appropriate ways of interacting with young children. | 1 | 6 | 15 | 50 | 0 |
| Effectively coached me in developing my skills interacting with young children. | 5 | 13 | 26 | 28 | 0 |
| Were approachable if I had any questions or needed help. | 2 | 3 | 13 | 54 | 0 |

Comments:

- It was sometimes intimidating because you felt like an outside or out of place, but the teachers were great.
- I wish they would have helped me resolve conflicts.
- Positive environment for field experience workers to interact with children and teachers. Sometimes teacher’s aides could be a bit power hungry.
- The teachers were great with the kids and I learned a lot from observing them but I don’t feel they actively engaged in “coaching” me.
- Teachers need to be more enthusiastic!
- None.
- They positively modeled healthy interaction.
- None.
- They were very helpful, like I said previously.
- Lab teachers were great and fun to be around. Very welcoming and friendly.
- All the teachers are great!

Open Ended Responses

1. What has the ECLC staff done to make your experience meaningful?

- They are all very sweet and nice there. They made me appreciate all the work teachers put in.
- They have helped me apply what we were learning in class.
- Were always in office and helpful.
- All were friendly and warm. Vonda was especially helpful in pointing out the details behind kid’s behavior.

- Remembered my name and showed me value of relationships.
- The teachers were nice. I was included in activities with the children which helped them to get to know me.
- Really helped experience an educational environment with preschoolers.
- The teachers were nice and open with me.
- The way they taught and cared for the children.
- The ECLC staff was very helpful in guiding interactions with the children. They made it a fun, positive experience.
- They constantly were friendly, showed that they cared and were there for any questions we had.
- They are very helpful when I needed help.
- All the teachers were very kind and helpful. They would often reach out to me.
- They were very warm and welcoming.
- Mrs. Rodeheaver was always so welcoming and helpful with determining domains.
- Nothing – my experience there was fun and informative.
- Opening environment, guided me, helped me with questions.
- They don't treat you as if you don't know how to work with young children, or tell you what to do. They really let you get engaged and work hands on.
- They always take the time to talk to me in the morning.

2. What could the ECLC staff do to make your experience more meaningful?

- They talked with me and got to know me and made me feel like I was part of their family.
- They helped me engage with the children.
- Remind people of duties.
- Allow me to participate more in the class structure.
- Give us direction on where we are needed when room is full since we are not here often.
- By receiving more direction from the teachers.
- Be more lively.
- If we knew what the teachers lesson plan was for the day.
- Make connections how our time related.
- I felt lost in the beginning at the center. The staff were helpful when I asked questions.
- Probably guide us more on what to do on the first day.
- I thought it was overall very pleasant.
- It would be nice to have more clear direction of what I should/could be doing during my time.

- They did a great job. I wouldn't change anything.
- N/A
- Nothing.
- I felt like everybody was positive at the ECLC.
- Nothing. They're doing great.
- I think the staff does a great job. I can't think of anything they should do differently.
- Help guide us with the children (explain children's individual characters).

3. What suggestions would you offer for improvement?

- The way the time slots work for hours can be pretty inconvenient, but I am not sure how that can be improved.
- I think they could offer more constructive discipline for the children. Often misbehavior would go unnoticed or unresolved.
- None really.
- More structured activity with the kids.
- Have a handout for classroom and playground rules so we can re-direct the right behavior.
- Make the ECLC 15 hours and make it a separate complimentary class.
- Nothing. Just be more clear with what they want students to do once there (for each arrival time). Some students seemed lost with what to do once with children.
- Make the work times different times every week.
- I felt that 10 hours became redundant.
- Even though we have the workshop, maybe guiding new students their first day.
- For the first day of field experience, I felt that I didn't really know what to do, and they didn't fully explain on what I should do. They assumed that I knew.
- Talk more about domains during field experience.
- More direction.
- Nothing.
- Honestly, give us less hours so that the ones we do have we can be more effective with the children.
- None.
- N/A
- None.
- Having more open opportunities to come into the center for make-up times.
- Sometimes the center lacks teaching moments and student aides are always approachable.

4. What is your overall assessment of your field experience?

- I had a very interesting time overall. Some days were great and others not as much. I did learn a lot though.
- I thought it was enjoyable and fun. I learned a lot and loved working with the children.
- Really comfortable.
- I give it a "3" because I did learn a lot about kids, but think more structure could be provided.
- Great. Very enjoyable but challenging at times.
- I enjoyed my experience at the ECLC. Unfortunately this commitment was difficult due to my school schedule and work schedule on top of the 4 observation requirements. For a freshman level course the work load was unrealistic in order to achieve the best performance.
- It was fun getting to know the children.
- It was fun to hang out with the children.
- It was positive.
- Overall, it was a positive experience and I enjoyed my hour every week.
- It was a great experience. I really liked it and it was helpful in learning how to interact with children effectively.
- It was overall helpful for my learning and was a fun way to see what we are learning in real life.
- It was a good experience. I enjoyed seeing the theories in action.
- It was great!
- Provided insight into the development and how to positively impact preoperational children.
- It was a meaningful hands on learning experience that I would be willing to repeat.
- I had a lot of fun learning about the children.
- It was a great learning experience to actually take action in what we're learning in class.
- The field experiences definitely helped me have a better understanding of the material I was learning in class, but I think that the 10 hours required was a little too much to ask of us outside of class. If I was a child development major though I think the program is a really great experience, but for someone like me who's majoring in fashion merchandising it was a lot of extra-work to put in. I could understand maybe putting in 5 hours on top of the observations but 10 I think is a little much for a college student balancing work, and all other classes as well.
- It was good. It's helpful to see multiple children interacting in their own environment.

5. Other Comments:

- I would suggest maybe 8 hours of Field Experience.
- N/A
- Vonda was incredibly helpful.
- N/A
- Nope.
- N/A
- Great experience!
- Having to pick one domain makes observing difficult and selective.

Please return survey to your professor.