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Early Childhood Learning Center
Annual Assessment Report

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Academic Year: 2024-2025

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I. Mission

Point Loma Nazarene University's Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC) is a campus laboratory school under the direction of the Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Family Sciences.

The Early Childhood Learning Center has the unique opportunity of serving the PLNU campus and the Point Loma community by meeting the needs of children and their parents. At the same time, the Center serves as the location for observations and demonstrations of teaching methods and other experiences for students preparing for careers with children. The ECLC is a laboratory in human relationships where children, parents, students, and teachers interact, play, work, and learn together.

Point Loma Nazarene University is an institution of the Church of the Nazarene. Our professors, teachers, and students are mature Christians who serve as models and guides to children in their growth and development. Christian living is the foundation of day-by-day living, learning, and teaching. Our program at the ECLC is planned to encourage the social, emotional, cognitive, physical, and spiritual growth of children and to give guidance and support to parents in achieving a more effective and fulfilled parenthood.

II. Reflective Summary of 2024-2025

In reflection 2024-2025 was a highly productive, positive year in all categories – student training, laboratory experiences for over 100 students each semester, serving the needs of children and parents. This is evidence from the assessments that are in this report.

It is important to note that 2024-2025 had many health and personal challenges for the small ECLC team however, with that being said, it was a year that was successful in meeting the needs of children, parents, and college students.

III. Early Childhood Learning Center Laboratory Review

The ECLC served 3 Departments, 7 classes and 324 students during 2024-2025.

Department	EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTER Laboratory Experience	Students	Hours	Students	Hours
		FA 24	FA 24	SP 25	SP 25
Kinesiology	KIN 3012 Motor Learning and Motor Development Laboratory Experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Students test current theories of motor development by designing, implementing, recording and analyzing research projects utilizing the Early Childhood Learning Center children	49	147	35	105

Sociology, Social Work, and Family Sciences	CHD 1020 Child and Adolescent Development Laboratory Experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trained classes • Students observe and document observations of three- and four-year-old children virtually on Canvas • Students keep reflective journal 			37	350
	CHD 1050 Human Development Laboratory Experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trained classes • Students observe and document observations of three- and four-year-old • Students observe a demonstration of the preoperational child's ability to think and process 	84	1120	66	804
	CHD 3010 Early Childhood Education Laboratory Experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students design and implement a theme based virtual or in-person lesson for 3 and 4 year olds • Students design and implement emergent literacy plan • Finger plays with small group • Conflict resolution with small groups 	18	72		
	NUT 4025 Child and Adolescent Nutrition Laboratory Experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students design and implement child nutrition lessons for 3-and 4- year-olds • Students create a healthy meal for a young child • Students observe and document children at a meal time 			22	44
	CHD 4060 Administration In Early Childhood Education Laboratory Experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students evaluate the center's safety and licensing procedures • Students read and evaluate policies and emergency procedures of the center • Students design and implement a three-day outdoor action research project 			11	33
Occupational Therapy	OT Masters Year 2 Field Experience Laboratory Experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students worked on accessing large and fine motor development • Students facilitated screening of developmental milestones to report results to parents • Students shadowed specific children and created a plan to meet their needs 	2	180		
TOTAL -3 Dep	7 Classes	153	1519	171	1336

IV. Assessments

FIELD EXPERIENCE SURVEYS – FALL 2024 WORKSHOP ONE (78 Responses)

	4 Highly Effective	3 Effective	Total
My field experience helped me gain a deep understanding of the three domains.	70.5%	28.2%	98.7%
My field experience helped me develop skills in effective communication with young children.	79.5%	19.2%	98.7%
The Lab Teachers effectively coached me in developing my skills interacting with young children.	60.3%	30.8%	91.1%

Themes from open-ended questions

a. ECLC Staff approachable and helpful

The ECLC staff has been communicative and helpful if there were any problems or questions I had which made me feel comfortable and made my experience meaningful.

All of the staff were very approachable and graceful when it came to questions or concerns I had for each child. They helped me the most other than my studying to understand each domain and what exactly to look for in each child since their behaviors and plays all vary.

The ECLC staff has been really welcoming and very thorough in recognizing who has fieldwork time at certain hours to prevent overcrowding.

They were very approachable and very sweet and answered any questions I had throughout my fieldwork experience. They each provided great tips and really explained every question I had very well. I really enjoyed having this experience.

They took time to explain things to me and answer my questions, whether it was in between shifts or on the playground, they were always available to give me advice or answer questions.

Mrs Johnson was always really kind and put in an effort to help us learn to our fullest potential.

b. I was able to learn and understand deeper level

Overall great experience dealing and learning about children in a way I have never experienced before.

Having real life experience with the kids over this period of time has helped me apply my learning very effectively, and I have gained to much knowledge through the experience.

Such an eye-opening experience to understand kids on a psychological and developmental level.

I learned so much about child development in this class and loved attending the ECLC to see it in real life!

One of the best learning experiences ever!

Every domain was easily identified throughout the entire semester. The children were easy to engage with and open to all types of play.

Challenges and Things to Improve

It is important to note that the major theme was “I don’t think the ECLC can do anything to make my experience more meaningful.”

a. Communication

Continue to tell us the guidelines and expectations!

maybe just explaining the activities and telling us the purpose

Make rules more clear, a list for us to take home, or things they like/don't like. Such as talking with them during meal time or interacting with the children too long individually

maybe help the students have a more clear role because I felt in the way often

b. More engagement

ECLC experience was good but I would say that it would be nice to be able to interact more with the children because for this semester they had other labs going on

I think the ECLC staff does a great job at helping this experience be meaningful. It may be helpful to allow more interaction between the kids and college students as I felt I was just sitting and watching for a majority of the time rather than engaging with the kids.

Be a little more engaging and explaining why kids act a certain way.

Be more willing to help even when we don’t ask because I know in a lot of cases many people have questions, and take more time to get to know us.

Sometimes the teachers felt a little hard to approach.

FIELD EXPERIENCE SURVEYS – SPRING 2025 WORKSHOP ONE (84 Responses)

	4 Highly Effective	3 Effective	Total
My field experience helped me gain a deep understanding of the three domains.	81%	19%	100%

My field experience helped me develop skills in effective communication with young children.	69%	26.2%	95.2%
The Lab Teachers effectively coached me in developing my skills interacting with young children.	58.3%	26.6%	84.9%

Themes from open-ended questions

a. Welcoming environment that established connection

The ECLC has helped to make my experience meaningful by just allowing us to be there and interact with the kids and learn! I loved having the ability to do fieldwork with this class and each week was meaningful and full of opportunities to learn from the kids.

The ECLC staff has been attentive, welcoming, and present throughout my experience. This has really impacted my time at the ECLC to feel comfortable and learn even more. It is truly significant that they had created this warm environment, so students don't feel discouraged to learn.

Because the staff were so welcoming to me, the kids could sense it and some of them became my friends and were genuinely happy to see me. That positive environment made a big difference, and it all started with how the staff treated me.

They were helpful in telling me where to be and what to participate in. (example: telling me to sit in the circle for circle time) It was a new environment and, in the beginning, it was unclear where I was supposed to be/what to say and so clear instructions were very helpful and comforting.

My overall assessment of my field work experience has impacted my life tremendously. I have learned so much and felt warmth through my time there. In high school, I had been a daycare teacher, and tutor for kids, which reminded me of my past. The ECLC had created a welcoming and informative environment to allow me to take opportunities to learn. Whether it be engaging with the kids on the playground, observing their mannerisms and behaviors. Or analyzing the way they participate in circle time or converse during lunch time. The time I had spent with the kids warm my heart due to how kind and bright they are. Genuinely has me in a state where I want to continue my time and do it all again.

b. Personal Improvement and Development

I have been able to improve my communication with young children while in the ECLC and learn how to scaffold in different circumstances.

While working with the children, I was able to develop skills that I will continue to carry with me throughout my career

During my experiences in the ECLC, I have gained a greater and clear understanding of cognitive, social, and physical development. I remember when I went to worship one, we had to do an activity where a picture is put up in the screen, and we choose what category it is, and I remember getting several incorrect, but now if I did it, I feel confident that I would be successful in completing and choosing the right area of development. Overall, it was so amazing, watching specific children and their growth in the 10 weeks in the ECLC every Tuesday morning.

At the ECLC, I feel like I've learned a lot about the differences and the different levels of development that children can be in, and it has really helped that I've been able to see the different kinds of development in person and in interacting with the kids at the ECLC.

The ECLC is an amazing environment where I have been able to see the children grow and learn. The teacher's are amazing within them and truly help them learn in unique ways and help them resolve conflicts together!

Challenges and Things to Improve

It is important to note that the major theme was “nothing”.

a. More interaction with the children

I think the ECLC could make our time more meaningful while we were there by letting us interact more with the kids rather than just observing them in a close area. I think being able to talk with the kids and help them in the classroom would let us experience more.

Helping us to engage more, or giving us tools to make conversation with the children/ how to talk to them. (I know we had a little bit of information on this, but I don't think I fully had a handle on this skill.)

b. Teachers more approachable and encouraging

I enjoyed it a lot! I think that sometimes some teachers or staff members can be slightly rude to the students, although we are required to be in the ECLC to achieve success in CHD. Some run ins I had would definitely get me kinda down, however the positive ones made it worth it and the children always had cute little remarks to distract me.

Be gentle with their words. There were some people that would say things and it would sound rude. Even if that is not how they meant it that is how it felt.

If they see us struggling, they could give us advice on how to handle certain situations.

Guide me a little more in what ways i can help each time i visit the room so that i can feel more purposeful in my time.

Conclusions Drawn from Data

Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 Workshop ONE

ECLC Field Experience Student Survey WORKSHOP ONE Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 Combined	4 Highly Effective	3 Effective	Total
My field experience helped me gain a deep understanding of the three domains.	76%	23.4%	99.4%
My field experience helped me develop skills in effective communication with young	70.4%	25.9%	96.3%

children.			
The Lab Teachers effectively coached me in developing my skills interacting with young children.	59.3%	29.6%	88.9%

Workshop One Early Childhood Learning Center field experience for students was effective in helping them to identify the differences in cognitive, emotional, social, and physical development of young children. It was also effective in helping students engage with young children to assist in their cognitive, emotional, social, and physical development. The students completed ten hours of field experience and two hours of ECLC workshop training. The criteria of 80% was met for ratings one and two on a four-point scale in all three categories effective in preparing, gaining deeper understanding and developing skills in communicating with young children. The score ranged from 88%–100%.

Insight 2024-2025

Fall 2024 - It is important to note that both Fall and Spring Semester had significant distinctive challenges and the assessments reflected that. Fall 2024 we had an increase in the number of field experience students in both sections of CHD 1050. This was due to an error in predicting new child development freshman that needed the course in the fall. Fall 2024 also for the first time facilitated OT Masters Field Training, every Wednesday morning. On those days, the lab teachers met the needs of OT students and their special assignments. Due to these two additions, the lab was at its max in adult-child ratio and this had to be addressed throughout the semester. Additionally, we were down a transition teacher due to illness.

Interestingly, this has raised the question of the capacity limit of our lab. It is getting more and more popular with added programs wanting to utilize it. Next Fall, the psychology department will be utilizing it for research. This was my first time in my history at the ECLC that it became a question to really ponder.

Spring 2025 - Both our Lab teachers had significant personal challenges throughout the semester and we had to utilize a long term substitute throughout the semester.

Even though reviews of the lab were positive and met the criteria, in the free response questions, very little was mentioned about scaffolding from teachers. Due to challenges of our teachers in the spring, we had substitutes that did a good job , but nothing replaces the intentional guiding and coaching of our master teacher on the ECLC Team. It is so important to always focus on making sure they are being recognized and given an opportunity for growth and recharging.

Changes made from data

Building Community

1. Create ways for students to know the names of each child - some kind of name tag or card.
2. Have students that do Saturday workshops meet lab teachers.
3. More check in times with whole classrooms both in CHD 1050 and 1020.

FIELD EXPERIENCE SURVEYS – FALL 2024 WORKSHOP TWO (12 Responses)

	4 Highly Effective	3 Effective	Total
How effective was the prerequisite Workshop			

TWO training class in preparing you for your field experience and observation.	100%	0%	100%
My field experience helped me develop skills in effective communication with young children.	100%	0%	100%
My field experience at the ECLC was effective in helping me gain a deep understanding of block exploration, literacy, math and science.	66.7%	33.3%	100%

Themes from open-ended questions

a. Meaningful Experiences

They have been a great environment to learn.

This experience made it meaningful because i got the opportunity to learn and see the children grow each time I went to ECLC.

They have allowed me to connect with the children and participate in fun activities with them. They have made me feel special and apart of the class.

They encouraged me to join in on activities instead of just watching

The experience was extremely meaningful.

b. Teacher coached my understanding of cognitive development

Ms. Johnson always gave me ideas on how to explore with the children. When I would observe block exploration, she would get blocks from the shed so I could play with the children. When I would observe math skills, she would tell me to invite a child to sort sticks with me.

They have made very clear areas of different types of play available as well as times where it is easy to interact with the children in a natural way.

Challenges and things to improve

It is important to note that the major response was to the open ended question what can ECLC Team do better the major theme was “nothing I can think of “

a. Less observers at one time

Have less observers in the room at a time

I think that specific scheduled times for observations at the beginning of the semester would be great so there are no more than 2-3 people in the observation room at a time, and your time is concrete.

	4 Highly Effective	3 Effective	Total
How effective was the prerequisite Workshop TWO training class in preparing you for your field experience and observation.	66.7%	33.3%	100%
My field experience helped me develop skills in effective communication with young children.	68.8%	25%	93.8%
My field experience at the ECLC was effective in helping me gain a deep understanding of block exploration, literacy, math and science.	87.5%	12.5%	100%

Themes from open-ended questions

a. Coaching and Guidance

The ECLC has helped bring the concepts we learn in class to life. Plus it is just fun to get hands-on experience with children!

The teachers at the school helping me on how to best handle situations or giving me encouragement when I handled a situation well was really great!

The ECLC has been nothing but welcoming and engaging. It has been so crucial in helping me understand what I am learning in CHD1020.

b. Developing Skills for my profession

It's given me a place to truly realize what I want to do and how I want to be a speech pathologist in a school setting!

Given me hands-on experience which increases my confidence when working with young children.

Challenges and things to improve

It is important to note that the major response was "everything is perfect".

a. Workshop Idea

I would offer a practice round in the workshop of observing an example child scenario and then practicing how we would analyze that child's development. But overall, it was a great workshop!

b. 1st Day Idea

One suggestion would be to provide a brief guide or checklist for fieldwork students, especially on the first day.

Conclusions Drawn from Data
Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 Workshop TWO

ECLC Field Experience Student Survey WORKSHOP ONE Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 Combined	4 Highly Effective	3 Effective	Total
How effective was the prerequisite Workshop TWO training class in preparing you for your field experience and observation.	82.1%	17.9%	100%
My field experience helped me develop skills in effective communication with young children.	82.1%	14.3%	96.4%
My field experience at the ECLC was effective in helping me gain a deep understanding of block exploration, literacy, math and science.	59.3%	29.6%	88.9%

The criteria of 80% or higher was met for the ratings one and two on a four-point scale for three out of three. The scores ranged from INPUT COLLECTIVE. It is important to note that Highly Effective was scored ranging from INPUT COLLECTIVE. The lowest was on developing communication skills with young children which is the main goal of Workshop One.

In this workshop, students' practical application focuses in developing skills and understanding cognitive developmental block exploration, emergent literacy, math and science exploration. In this level, students bring things into the ECLC to engage with children in a cognitive area each week. The open-ended questions revealed that meaningful learning happened during both Fall 2024 and Spring 2025.

When reading both Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 semester student answers to open-ended questions , it was revealed that students felt welcomed and were overall more comfortable. Having been at the ECLC before that sense of trust was repeatedly stated in all of the workshops both semesters. Both this need of students feeling a sense of belonging and clear expectations has been a goal of the ECLC team. Students are stating that back-to-back workshops are helping them gain a deeper understanding.

Changes made from data

1. Make sure workshop 2 students get first priority of schedule and no time slots during lunch time.
2. Workshop Two now will incorporate additional slides of block play, math and science and give them time to practice and observe and identify stages of development.
3. Workshop Two will change the basic level of block play to more of an advanced level and make sure it is reinforced in CHD 3010, the curriculum course.
4. Add a video for workshop 2 and have them identify different levels of block play.

ECLC PARENT SURVEY – May 2025	1. Highly Effective	2. Effective	TOTAL
Effective Leadership and Management:			
Clarity of Policies	93.8%	6.3%	100%
Smoothness of Operation of the Center	93.8%	6.3%	100%
Learning Environment for Children:			
Safety of Physical Environment	87.5	6.3	93.8
Project-based Learning Environment	100%	0%	100%
Child Growth and Development:			
Cognitive Growth	93.8%	6.3%	100%
Social Growth	100%	0%	100%
Service to Parents:			
Parent Conferences	75%	12.5%	90.5%
Portfolio Assessment Tools	87.3%	6.3%	87.6%
Parent Education	68.8%	12.5%	81.3%

Learning Environment for children

We love Ms. Johnson and will miss her so much! She is not only an excellent teacher, but a wonderful person who is loving, caring, and supports the needs of children. We are always amazed at the fun adventures and projects the children work on. Our children have learned so much this year. Ms. Johnson is an asset to the ECLC and all children and families.

The learning environment at the preschool is nothing short of exceptional. It's a place where curiosity is encouraged, creativity is nurtured, and every child is seen and valued for who they are. The classrooms are warm, engaging, and thoughtfully designed to support exploration and meaningful play. It's clear that the educators and leadership team have put so much care into creating a space where children feel safe, inspired, and excited to learn each day

Couldn't ask for better :)

One of the things that attracted us to ECLC is the beautiful indoor and outdoor environment. Let's of different areas for the children to explore, lots of great natural light and a nice, open classroom.

What are some things that the center is doing well

Overall we are very happy with the center.

Focusing on the socio-emotional growth of the children with love, kindness, and patience. The focus on things being child led is so important for their growth and development.

Individualistic approach for each child, nurturing environment, good outdoor play time, caring teachers.

1. Creating a Warm, Nurturing Environment Children are greeted with kindness, and there's a consistent atmosphere of safety and care that helps them feel secure and valued. 2. Supporting Holistic Child Development There's a wonderful balance of activities that support cognitive, emotional, social, and physical development — helping children grow into well-rounded little people. 3. Clear and Caring Communication with Parents Regular updates, newsletters, and open channels for feedback help parents feel involved and reassured about their child's experience. 4. Encouraging a Love for Learning Through play-based learning, creative exploration, and engaging lessons, children are developing curiosity and enthusiasm for discovery.

Improvements

Parent Involvement

Parent Involvement Opportunities Creating more chances for parents to participate in the classroom, events, or curriculum planning could deepen the sense of community and collaboration.

Would love to see follow through with the book club idea in the future. Just more opportunities for moms/families to connect and form bonds.

It would be great if the activities where parents are invited are right after drop off instead of an hour or so later. It would help with the back and forth for parents, and also the emotional rollercoaster for the kids who have to say goodbye twice.

Not sure if it would be possible but maybe giving a quick bio of some of the regular college students that help out on a consistent basis. There were some faces that we saw often but didn't know their names.

Changes made from data

1. Create a student aide bulletin board for parents to know all the names of the current staff.
2. More parent activities including two book clubs (one in the spring, one in the fall).
3. Add more family events
 - a. Art Show
 - b. Back-to-school potluck