

## Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC) Field Experience Survey Spring 2015

Surveys were given to 90 students. Students enrolled in FCS 150 Human Development and FCS 120 Child and Adolescent Development May, 2015 completed the survey.

FCS 150 Section One – 30 students

FCS 150 Section Two – 38 students

FCS 120 – 22 students

A total of 90 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**

<b>At the end of my field experience I am able to:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Identify the differences of cognitive, emotional, social and physical development of young children.	0	0	15	37	0
Engage with young children to assist in their cognitive, emotional, social, and physical development.	0	0	16	35	0
<b>Comments:</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over time, I was able to teach children how to resolve a problem on their own. Ex. If a child is crying b/c his/her toy gets taken away, I teach the two children to take turns (social/emotional.)</li> <li>Identifying which domain I was focusing on a particular day was helpful and helped me with practical application.</li> <li>I learned a lot from the ELC and can now work better with children, especially 3 and 4 year olds.</li> <li>It can be difficult working with the domains in the beginning because the children have not warmed up to you yet.</li> <li>I love working at the ECLC, I learned so much!</li> <li>At the beginning I had a difficult time determining what was cognitive, but now I can recognize it.</li> <li>Observing these domains was very helpful in learning about different theorists on top of learning/reading about them in the book and in class.</li> <li>I feel like I can interact with children in a way that will prepare them and help them grow.</li> <li>At times it seemed as though there were 10+ more student workers/students than children which made engagement difficult.</li> <li>Exceptional learning tool/experience for the class (and life.)</li> <li>It was sometimes difficult to engage with the children because they were wary of unfamiliar adults.</li> <li>Development in assisting children in their development, especially social, was strongly evident.</li> <li>I felt as though working in the ECLC really helped me to further understand theories and the different kinds of development. I do much better with "hands on" versus just lecture.</li> <li>Given adequate support from staff to foster a feeling of having a team to be there for the children and allowed to be fairly independent with choice of how to interact w/kids to an extent.</li> </ul>					

- Learned a lot about applying theories.
- It really helped to be able to learn and experience the stages of development through working with the kids. I am a visual learner so this was especially helpful.
- I worked at a preschool for 1½ years prior to this class.
- Performing in naturalistic observations at the ECLC really helped me see the information learned in class in action. It was much easier to remember theories and terms when it was shown in real life.
- Opened my eyes to development stages.
- Provides a safe environment for the children and a perfect learning environment for students.
- I would be more effective if I enjoyed spending time with kids.
- The teachers & Mrs. Rodeheaver were so helpful in really grasping the concepts. They helped us learn by doing their examples were a great thing to see.
- I can now recognize various behaviors that involve each domain.
- Having hands on experience at the ECLC has expanded my knowledge exponentially.
- I loved working with the children. They are so sweet and taught me so much.
- It helped me see the theories at work.

<b>My field experience at the ECLC has helped me:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Gain a deep understanding of the three domains (physical, social/emotional, cognitive).	0	3	34	53	0
By providing opportunities to positively engage with young children and use my skills in positive communication with young children.	0	5	19	65	0
Develop skills in effective communication with young children.	0	6	29	55	0

**Comments:**

- Before I started my field work, I understood the meanings of those three domains. After I saw these domains occur in children, it made so much sense. It was really intriguing to actually see the domains happening.
- Sometimes I felt like it was more about observing than actually interacting.
- I have learned a lot about negotiating with young children from the ECLC exposure.
- Most of the time I was playing with them and having fun.
- The ECLC was very challenging but rewarding. I feel as though I learned to further appreciate children.
- I felt like I did grow in understanding of how to effectively communicate with kids.
- I would have appreciated further teaching moments/lessons on communication.
- By watching how the teachers interact with the children I was able to learn how to better communicate with them.
- I enjoyed working with the children, but I did not find it applicable to my major.
- Overall, engaging with the young children was a positive experience.
- I haven't had a lot of experience interacting w/children before, so this was a great opportunity to be able to see kids learning in action and practice some 3-4 year old conflict management/resolution.
- It feels more comfortable working with children.

- The ECLC has helped me see the theories we learned in class being demonstrated by the children in the ECLC. Working at the ECLC has helped me communicate better with young children.
- In the beginning I was really nervous about interacting with young children because I've never been in a situation that required it. Now that I've completed my ECLC experience I feel confident in effectively communicating with children.
- I love working with the kids and it really did assist me in learning the domains as well as communication skills.
- These abilities are mostly due to prior experience.
- I really enjoyed working with the children this semester and I look forward to working with kids in the future.
- I felt we weren't fully taught how to talk/engage with young children. The seminar at the beginning was informative, but more help along the way would have been helpful. During the actual field experience, we kind of had to fend for ourselves.
- The more I did feel experience, the easier it was to communicate w/ the children.
- I think the ECLC is great, I just don't enjoy spending time with children.
- I usually went during outdoor playtime so I did not get to observe much classroom learning, but I wish I was able to.
- I loved this part of the class because I was able to apply what I learned in class.
- I'm a lot better at talking to kids and playing with them.
- Allowed me to use what I learned & apply it right away.

The Lab Teachers:	1	2	3	4	N/A
Provided a positive role model of appropriate ways of interacting with young children.	0	0	16	71	0
Effectively coached me in developing my skills interacting with young children.	0	16	31	41	0
Were approachable if I had any questions or needed help.	1	2	19	67	0

**Comments:**

- Whenever I had confusion or needed to explain what I saw in the domain I chose, the teachers were there for me.
- So helpful and kind.
- They are great.
- Super nice teachers who welcome the students and make us feel like we belong.
- The teachers are fantastic.
- Amazing staff.
- Mrs. H was so great with the kids. She was a great role model.
- Excellent and well trained staff.
- I only worked with Mrs. Ah Sing and she was wonderful to work with. She was really friendly & approachable, but also amazing with the kids.
- Great staff. Sometimes felt thrown into a situation, though, but I suppose that was helpful, too.
- Mrs. Ah Sing helped coach me through interactions but Mrs. Heinz has often just said for the kids that were too hard to control to let them run wild because it is too difficult.
- I did not have any experiences where a lab teacher showed me how to deal with a child or how to handle a particular situation.
- I loved all the teachers I worked with.
- The teachers were all very helpful and so enjoyable to be around.
- I felt like I could ask the teacher for help if I needed it, but often didn't because they were busy sometimes.
- They taught me the correct way to communicate with preschool children.
- I found the staff to be very helpful in assisting volunteers in minimizing problems.
- The lab teachers were always very welcoming when we came.
- Both Mrs. Heinz and Mrs. Ah Sing were wonderful at providing advice and constructive criticism.
- Mrs. Ah Sing was a fantastic model of appropriate ways to interact with kids, but the other helpers didn't seem to truly enjoy being with kids.
- Rarely had input or help from the teachers.
- Again, I felt we weren't coached during the field work. We were just expected to know what to do.
- Mrs. Ah Sing is incredible! She never failed to answer any questions and was super nice.
- Teachers were kind & welcoming. I had no trouble communicating with them.
- Mrs. Ah Sing is wonderful & always happy to help.
- The teachers were wonderful to talk to.
- Some of the teachers were very friendly & approachable. Some helped with my learning a lot.
- The two teachers in the ECLC were very loving and helpful in any circumstance.
- All of the teachers were approachable & great examples.
- They were always very kind and helpful to me when I had any questions.
- All very nice and helped me work on resolving problems between the kids.

## Open Ended Responses

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

- They have all been kind and pointed me in the right direction in learning how to interact with children in a preschool setting.
- Helped me work through conflicts with children.
- They are very welcoming. The questions at the end I feel like were less educational & a little more of a routine answer.
- The ECLC staff has encouraged me to interact with the children.
- Teachers & aids were helpful and friendly.
- They taught me how to interact with kids with relating to Christ.
- They give me freedom to figure out how to help the children, but step in when they need to.
- The ECLC staff are always flexible and willing to make time/space for students to come & interact with the children.
- They provided a welcoming environment & offered help when needed.
- They always made me feel welcomed and a part of the environment.
- Helped me to understand what parts of my experience went into which category.
- The teachers seem very helpful for our help; every time I left they made a point of saying "thank you."
- They make me feel welcome and are always there if we need help.
- They have had a positive and helpful attitude.
- They are very kind and helpful.
- Mrs. Ah Sing was wonderful with helping head meaningful conversations w/ the children.
- Every teacher in the ECLC remembered my name and asks about myself every day.
- Made me feel welcome & comfortable.

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

- ECLC staff was great.
- I don't think the workshop was a great use of my time.
- To make it more meaningful it would be nice if the ECLC staff would talk to us more rather than only correcting our mistakes.
- Provided more feedback.
- Nothing in all honesty. Just would like more time there.
- Nothing I can think of.
- Nothing. It is very beneficial & meaningful to be w/kids for an hour & see how they learn & interact.
- I think just interacting more with us on the playground, giving us tips or pointing out P,S/E. or C observations.
- More teacher-PLLNU student interaction-help communicating w/children.
- It would be helpful to know the do's and don'ts of fieldwork, for example – taking a child to the bathroom isn't allowed.
- I had adequate training for the ECLC but I never felt like I had a good intro to the children.
- Perhaps more direction/guidance.
- Show us examples of the 3 domains.

- N/A - They were very helpful.
- It was perfect.
- Maybe give us conflict management skills in the situation.
- The ECLC staff could have been more helpful in coaching how to handle conflict between children.
- There could have been more coaching on what to do while we were actually interacting with children.
- The student workers could be more friendly. Too many students volunteering at one time.
- I don't think too much – it was meaningful.
- Nothing. They were great!
- Some feedback on how we were doing would heighten this learning experience. Both positive and constructive.
- Maybe a little more positivity from Mrs. Groves.
- It would be helpful if the staff could give helpers more instruction on how to deal with the children.
- They did a great job. Definitely approachable and well-intentioned.
- The ECLC staff couldn't do anything better that I could think of. They well prepared and guided us.
- Maybe a little more direction the first day. I was a little nervous and not sure what to do.
- Nothing really.
- More direction on the first day of coming.
- Provide more of a structure to how to deal with meltdowns or child conflicts.
- Nothing. I think they were doing a fine job.
- Longer periods of time to spend with the children.
- I'm not sure.
- They were already helpful and communicated with us, so my experience was already meaningful.
- Nothing I can think of – it was a great experience.
- The helpers could be more of a model of working well with kids.
- Teachers could be more involved.
- Nothing.
- More coaching during field work.
- A little more direction would have been nice because it is not easy adjusting to what they expect.
- Nothing, I thought they were great!
- Point out development stages as they observed them as the teacher may see things I didn't.
- Include us in being/playing w/the kids when we are first beginning.
- Make connections with students & children.
- Being able to discuss more in depth about domains. Helping in the beginning when were unsure how to play w/the children.
- I did not feel as if the staff knew my name or were interested in me personally.
- Some teachers could be less strict and forceful and more approachable & helpful.
- I thought it was great.
- Maybe engage more in helping us figure out what to look for on our domain focus our day.
- Have an extra teacher explain things.
- Nothing. I love the staff.
- A little more guidance in the classroom.
- Allow us to be more actively involved in the children's learning.
- I didn't really know what to expect at first and felt out of place.
- Nothing

- Be friendlier.
- More interactive teaching with students rather than just observing.
- Nothing – they were already wonderful.
- Allow us to go more than 1x a week so we can be w/the kids more.
- Nothing.
- Provide more hands on teaching or ways to help.
- Maybe coach/instruct us what to do more.

### 3. What suggestions would you offer for improvement?

- Maybe more training.
- Maybe more guidance in showing us what to do.
- Maybe gave an orientation with the 120 workers & the children to build respect.
- Pointers from teachers when communicating with children – constructive criticism.
- I think just interacting more with us on the playground, giving us tips or pointing out P,S/E. or C observations.
- I did not find the training very helpful. I think instead, when a student arrives for their first day of field work a staff member should walk them through checking in and the logistics.
- Switch up the morning snacks.
- More feedback.
- I would suggest that the ECL C enforce consequences more for when a child does a wrong action.
- The training session in the beginning of the semester was helpful but too long.
- Step in when conflicts occur but lead field experience students in how to handle it.
- Sometimes it gets a little hectic with all the workers.
- Possibly being more flexible with times. I had a few issues with the timing of things that made it a bit hard to figure out sometimes.
- Make it required to do less hours.
- The ECLC staff couldn't do anything better that I would think of. They well prepared us and guided us.
- During my hours and observations, I did not see a whole lot of musical involvement, I feel like that could be beneficial.
- The teachers could help integrate the concepts in class to conversations had at the ECLC, such as Piaget's theories.
- I think that helpers should know more about the rules and schedules of the classroom before they begin their field experience hours.
- Less hours. This was a stressful time commitment.
- A more direct teaching moment on how to resolve conflict would have been helpful.
- One teacher seemed harsh to the kids and got easily frustrated.
- Ask the student workers to be more inclusive to the students doing field experience.
- Like I said before, I would love to be taught a little while interacting.
- It would have been nice to have fewer volunteers at the ECLC at any one time.
- Making the hours more accessible for someone with lots of commitments (like track.)
- Lessen the required hours. I was only able to go during chapel times so was at risk for paying chapel fines because of needing to work at the preschool.
- A shorter training time, a lot of the things were common knowledge & were repeated multiple times,

taking an excessively long time.

- To not have so many volunteers there at the same time.
- Maybe coach/instruct us what to do more.
- Giving the aides a warning that the kids might kick/spit at them.
- Maybe offer more help and examples when students get their hours signed off.
- For students to be able to have a more interactive role as opposed to just observing.
- Possibly an "in session" training in addition to the seminar.
- Not to have us cleanup & be little workers when we are supposed to be observing the kids.
- Have an extra teacher to explain things.
- Have an extra teacher explain things. (2<sup>nd</sup> student to leave same reply-verbatim)
- I thought it was great.
- Teachers are more helpful to volunteers, give clear instructions.
- Maybe have a day of meeting the teachers and being introduced to the students.
- Help us feel more comfortable & wanted there.
- I think it was great writing a journal each week. The field experience hours were very helpful to my learning.
- It is a very well organized process.
- None that I can think of.
- Keep doing what you are doing.
- Probably just awareness of the student's work.
- More coaching during the field work.
- The ECLC is a great resource on campus, but I believe that students should come more than once a week to build more familiarity with the children.
- Sign up for each week so students can observe children and interact with them at different parts of the day.
- Just helpers who truly love kids.
- The staff could perhaps identify specific techniques that certain children respond well to.
- There are no improvements that I saw are needed.
- My main complaint is how much extra time the field experience took between the workshop, field experience, and observation.

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

- I had the most memorable experiences at the ECLC. I loved being able to improve my interactions with the children along with learning through the staff.
- The training session in the beginning of the semester was helpful but too long.
- Really enjoyable and very helpful.
- It was fun but I wish it was a better use of time.
- Overall, it was interesting to see how the children acted this type of education. I loved spending time with the children; however, I do not agree with all of the ECLC's discipline techniques.
- Great – challenging but educational.
- I really loved it. I wouldn't change it for a thing. Just would want to spend more time there.
- It's very helpful and so much fun! Gets me excited to be a real teacher.
- Overall my experience was great, at times I felt as though I was being watched by teachers/staff and



couldn't be totally free to engage with children.

- Great!
- It was fun & very meaningful in the relationships I was able to make with the children.
- I thought it was good once I settled in & felt comfortable & more confident. It felt good when the kids finally recognized me.
- Very good experience. I loved it. Mrs. Rodeheaver is amazing and very helpful.
- Wonderful place for students to learn about child development and for children to learn.
- It has been helpful.
- I had a great experience.
- Overall a positive experience.
- -1 – 10+ 100,000
- Good but can be hard to track progress when students are absent.
- Good experience, however it affirmed my lack of a calling for pediatrics.
- It was a fun experience but the time requirement was a little excessive.
- Good training.
- I truly enjoyed it and loved being w/ the kids.
- It was interesting and somewhat insightful.
- Overall, I greatly enjoyed the field experience.
- I enjoyed observing & participating at the ECLC.
- I really enjoyed it. I learned a lot and it was the highlight of my week to interact with the kids.
- It went well. Very hard work, but manageable.
- They were really helpful, but 10 is a lot to do, considering they're all outside of class.
- I enjoyed my time there and I began to look forward to it every week because I love the kids so much.
- A more direct teaching moment on how to resolve conflict would have been helpful.
- I thought it was a lot of work for a course that has nothing to do with my major, but I enjoyed my time.
- It was a pretty good experience, but trying to complete brought me stress.
- I thoroughly enjoyed it.
- I enjoyed my experience but I often felt more like a hindrance than a help because I was so unfamiliar with the layout of the classroom and with effective strategies for dealing with children.
- It was a really good experience and it was a learning experience. I looked forward to going every week and spending time with the kids.
- Very enjoyable. I love building relationships with the kids and teachers.
- My field experience helped me to understand the studied domains effectively.
- I enjoyed it a lot and learned about children. It was fun, but also educational.
- I loved it. I just wish that there were less required hours to do.
- Very good.
- It was fun but sometimes I had a difficult time knowing what the children wanted.
- I really enjoyed working there.
- It was pretty good overall.
- I enjoyed it. Was a different experience since I'm used to normally working w/older.
- Awesome time.
- The field experience was honestly kind of an annoyance for me as I felt I did not get much out of it and it was just another thing to add to my schedule outside of class.
- I really enjoyed the field experience because I got to see a different mindset that 3-5 yr olds have.

- Awesome learning opportunity that was also a lot of fun.
- I'm thankful for this experience.
- I love it thoroughly and almost cried when I left on my last day.
- It was a fun experience.
- I had a fun time doing the field experiences and allowed me to learn & understand the concepts we learned in class by applying them.
- I really enjoyed participating in field experience here.
- I enjoyed it and did learn new concepts.
- Field experience was great for me. Lots of new things and lots of fun.
- Liked working with the kids and thought they made the environment very easy to learn in.
- I absolutely loved working with the children. It is something I will surely miss.
- Great enriching experience.
- It was a great experience, just a lot of hours.
- Very positive
- I still don't enjoy spending time with kids, but the ECLC helped me learn that & the staff is great.
- I think it was great writing a journal each week. The field experience hours were very helpful to my learning.
- I enjoyed it in the last 3 sessions. First several were very uncomfortable.
- I enjoyed learning about human development through working with the kids, but I wish the teachers were more inviting.
- It was okay.
- The hours were doable and the experience was great to have alongside lecture.
- I think this was a very helpful experience overall.
- Good.
- It was very fun and I learned a lot.
- I feel like this portion of the class solidified my learning of the domains.
- Overall, I learned a lot through the field experience.
- Having hands on experience at the ECLC has expanded my knowledge exponentially.
- I enjoyed every minute of it. I loved spending time with the kids while learning about them.
- It was a very good experience.
- I liked everything. It was a good experience.
- I loved having the opportunity to work in the field. It made learning more effective & enjoyable.
- Helpful.
- I would rather not do it. 10 hours is a maximum.
- I found this experience to be engaging and enjoyable. It helped me learn a lot about child development.
- I think this was an amazing experience and I will miss my time at the ECLC.
- I really enjoyed hanging out w/the kids & learning from them.
- Helpful and educational.
- I thought it was a great experience that helped me learn a ton.
- It was a positive experience where I gained skill & knowledge.

**5. Other Comments:**

- Interacting with all the children was not only fun but also helpful to see their development socially emotionally, cognitively and physically.
- Keep it going.
- I would not have been able to understand some concepts from my classes w/o the ECLC.
- The department should absolutely keep this field experience up.
- Thank you.
- The kids were cute.
- A great experience.
- Effective strategies for dealing with children.
- Felt like the staff looked down on me because I am not a child development major.
- Glad I could meet many of the kids.
- The kids do much.
- I like the fact that we had our top 3 opinions on when to show up.
- Little kids are hilarious.
- I enjoyed volunteering at the ECLC.
- I'm thankful for this experience.
- 5 hours instead of 10 would have been a lot better. Specifically, the workshop also could've easily taken half as much time as it did.

***Please return survey to your professor.***