

Play Space & Materials Project (40%)
Assignment Details and Evaluation Criteria

Materials can indirectly and directly facilitate development by encouraging children to engage in specific forms of play (e.g., dramatic play, rough and tumble play, solitary or group play) and at the same time, children's level of development influences the types of materials they choose to play with or types of materials selected by an educator to best facilitate learning of different subjects (e.g., mathematics, literacy) and development of different domains (e.g., social-emotional). The goal of this project is for students to show how they can apply their knowledge to practice by choosing appropriate materials and setting up a play space for a specified group of children.

Part 1. Group Presentation (15%; 20 points)

In groups of 4-6, students will prepare a presentation on facilitating learning and development of a particular population using appropriate materials and play space (i.e., each group will receive an age-range and description of a group of children's abilities). The group will, together, select materials and a play space that can be set up for these children to support their learning and development, as an indication of their knowledge gained in the course, as well as ability to gather knowledge from other academic sources. The goal of this presentation is to share ideas and knowledge with peers. All group members must present an aspect of the project and each group will have approximately 5 minutes of presentation time per member (e.g., 5 members = 25 minutes maximum). There is no required format for the presentation, groups can be as creative or formal as they would like.

Presentations must include:

- Description of the Group in Focus (3 points)
 - What are the characteristics of the group?
 - Developmental tasks or expected abilities?
 - Specific group needs or considerations?
- Goals and Decision Making Process (5 points)
 - What were your goals or intentions with this particular group or yourselves as pseudo-educators?
 - How did you go about choosing materials and a play space?
 - What did you consider when choosing materials and play space?
- Play Space and Materials Selection (5 points)
 - What have you chosen to facilitate children's learning and development?
 - Why have you selected these materials and this play space?
 - How can children engage in this space and with this material?
- Expected Outcomes (5 points)
 - How do you expect your goal(s) be met through the application or set up?
 - What are the potential learning and/or developmental benefits?
- Professionalism & Student Engagement (2 points)
 - Students are to maintain professional integrity during their presentation and work together to maintain student engagement in the class

Part 2. Independent Report (25%; 35 points)

Students will compile a written report on their understanding of the value of play, provide insight into the decisions and reasoning for materials and play space chosen (as presented by the group), and reflect on the process of selecting materials and a play space for a specific group of children and explain the implications of indirectly supporting children's learning and development through play with certain materials and in a certain space.

Due November 29th at 2:45pm in-class.

Report requirements:

- ~8 pages in length (max 10)
- Clear and effective academic writing
 - Students will be graded on clarity and organization of their writing
- APA style (6th Ed) formatting
 - i.e., title page (title, name, student ID, due date, course name, etc.), 12-point Times New Roman font, double spaced, page numbers, headings, citations, references (see <http://library.concordia.ca/help/citing/apa.php>)
 - In-Class lectures are to be cited as personal communication in-text (S. Della Porta, personal communication, January 12th, 2016) and are *not* to be included in the reference list, as it is not a published item.

Content requirements & point allocation:

- Introduction (~2 pages; 10 points)
 - Provide a brief overview of children's play (e.g., provide a definition, explain, in general, how children learn and develop through play)
 - Explain how parents and educators can provide opportunities to play and, in turn, facilitate children's learning and development
 - 2+ academic sources
- Play Space and Materials Report (3-4 pages; 15 points)
 - Report on presented elements (see content requirements above)
 - 3+ academic sources
- Conclusion (1-2 pages; 6 points)
 - Reflect on the materials and space selection process and the experience of working with your peers with particular focus on perspectives of play (e.g., child, adult, societal)
 - Provide implications for parents and educators on the preparation of materials and space, as well as ability to provide opportunities for play
 - 1+ academic source
- Writing and APA-Style (4 points)

Note. The introduction and report are to include academic sources, these can include class lectures, peer reviewed articles or academic texts. Visuals (i.e., images, charts, graphics) can be included but must be referred to in text (i.e., see Appendix A) and be included as an appendix.