



School of Education

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Dear Colleague

Thank you for agreeing to meet with one of our third year Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Education) Pre-service Teachers, with a view to considering a teaching placement in your centre.

Our pre-service teachers are enrolled in a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Education) degree that is offered through Open Universities Australia. They follow the same program that is offered on the Western Australian Campus of Curtin University, but instead of attending classes, they participate in learning experiences that are offered in an online learning environments. Pre-service teachers are expected to participate in a range of activities over a study period of 13 weeks (equivalent to one on campus semester). Each unit requires around 8-10 hours of student participation every week.

Professional Experience is an integral part of Curtin University education degrees, so in addition to their study, pre-service teachers have practicum requirements. Each pre-service teacher is required to teach in a different educational context on each Professional Experience (or practicum), in order to be exposed to as wide a variety of learning environments as possible. Pre-service teachers may teach in an accredited Early Learning Centre, Government, Catholic or Independent schools. Pre-service teachers are not permitted to teach in centres/schools where family members are on staff or attending as pupils. Overseas students may do their practicum in an International School where English is the language of instruction.

In third year, pre-service teachers are involved in working with children age birth to 5 years attending an accredited early learning centre. Pre-service teachers are expected to visit the centre once a week for 10 weeks immediately prior to a three-week block placement and be at the centre for an 8-hour day each visit, working in with centre arrangements. Ideally, the 10 weekly visits will be on the same day of the week. Over the course of the placement the pre-service teacher should experience at least two openings of the centre and two closes. Over the placement they are required to observe, plan and evaluate a number of indoor and outdoor learning experiences for a small group of children.

The Pre-service Teacher has already completed a three week block in a Kindergarten/Pre-primary and in second year, a three week block in a junior primary classroom in a school context. In fourth year, students complete an Internship (1 school term) within school context.

Before pre-service teachers can undertake a professional experience placement in a centre/school, they must have: A Working with Children Clearance (WWC and a signed Code of Conduct agreement

We sincerely hope that you will consider supporting our pre-service teacher(s) in your centre on their Professional Experience. I am very keen to support both the pre-service teacher and you as a centre. If you have any further questions or enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes

Sharon Davies

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