

EDUCATION 495-3

SPECIAL TOPIC: INSTRUCTIONAL PLAY IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Spring semester, 1990
Wednesday, 4:30-8:20 p.m.
Location: MPX 8651

Instructor: Roger Gehlbach
Office: MPX 8661
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PREREQUISITE: Educ 401/402 or permission of instructor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Children's play has been a topic of great interest to early childhood educators since children's early experiences came to be recognized as important to later life. The problem with play as a school activity, however, has been that its learning outcomes have been largely impossible to predict accurately. This course is intended to prepare students to use children's play as a major instructional tool in comprehensive educational programs for young children. The course will follow the following tentative outline:

- I. Natural Play: The problem of description
 - A. Psychological considerations
 1. Maturation
 2. Learning
 3. Environment
 - B. Social considerations
- II. Instructional Play: The problem of design
 - A. Free play in contrived environments
 - B. Guided play in natural environments

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. A structured observation of children at play.
2. A design for instructional play, with theoretical support. An in-class presentation and submitted paper.

TEXT MATERIALS

Block, J., & King, N. (1987). School Play. Teachers College Press.

Selected reprints.