### Observation Requirements for EED 200

EED 200 requires the following observations in different early childhood program settings:

- [ ] 10 hours in an infant or toddler program setting
- [ ] 10 hours in a preschool or pre-kindergarten setting
- [ ] 10 hours in a Kindergarten, 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2\textsuperscript{nd}, or 3\textsuperscript{rd} Grade classroom.

All Early Childhood Education Students conducting field experiences must follow the following guidelines for this assignment:

- **Before visiting a class/program,** make arrangements with the early childhood program director or school principal.
- **Develop the habit of writing down contact names** (director, teachers) so that you will be familiar with them by the time you arrive at the program for your field experience. Be aware that you may not have been announced even though you made an appointment.
- **Arrive on time or a few minutes early; introduce yourself and explain the purpose of your visit;** bring a copy of your assignment (this instruction/guideline sheet) and a letter of introduction (found at the end of this document).
- **Be sure to document the time you spent observing on the EED 200 observation log.** Ask the teacher or director to sign your field experience log sheet.
- **Ask a teacher where you can put your belongings and for any guidelines** (s)he has for how you can move about the room without disrupting activity and play.
- **Dress and act professionally. Be inconspicuous.** Do not initiate physical contact with children or engage them in conversation or other interaction. If children approach you, you can greet them briefly let them know you are there to watch them play and learn and you’ll be writing down what you see.
- **Remember that you represent Rio Salado College and the Early Childhood Education Program when you conduct a field experience.** Center directors/school principals graciously open their doors to college students to provide important learning opportunities. Teachers generously allow you to observe! Your role is not to be critical, but to observe and learn.
- **Maintain professional ethics and confidentially.** Neither positive nor negative comments about children or teachers should be made during your visit or outside of the related ECE class for which the field experience is assigned. You are ONLY permitted to discuss your field experience with your instructor and/or members of the Rio Salado Early Childhood Program staff. NO EXCEPTIONS. **Failure to maintain this level of professionalism may result in a failing grade for this course.**
- **Be aware of and sensitive to children’s feelings.** Children may be tired, ill or in discomfort during your field experience – many variables affect their behavior. Ask yourself this question: **If I were to return another day, would I see the same behaviors?**
- **Before leaving your field experience,** thank the teachers and/or director/principal for allowing you to visit.
- **Contact your Instructor should you need additional information about this assignment.**

---

**Note to Program Directors or School Principals ONLY:**

For additional information about this educational assignment; please contact Rio Salado College Early Childhood Department: Diana Abel, Ed.D., Program Director, (480-517-8269).
Dear Early Childhood Program Director or School Principal:

Thank you for your willingness to allow our Early Childhood student to visit your program/school. As a requirement of EED200, Foundations of Early Childhood Education, our students are required to complete a field experience. The purpose of this field experience is to expose our students to a variety of early childhood settings serving young children from birth to age eight. We feel strongly that these field experiences add a rich depth to our student’s educational journey. Your partnership in this experience brings together higher education with professional settings, thereby increasing the knowledge of early childhood students who are currently practitioners in our field and who have enrolled in courses with the quest of improving their skills, or early childhood students who are seeking to enter the field.

The purpose of this field experience is to spend time observing early childhood teachers engaged in working with young children. Our students are NOT permitted to discuss their observations with anyone except their instructors and/or members of my staff. Failure to maintain this level of confidentiality could result in the student failing the course.

We support and maintain our commitment to the Code of Ethics established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children:

**Section III:**

**Ethical responsibilities to colleagues**

In a caring, cooperative workplace, human dignity is respected, professional satisfaction is promoted, and positive relationships are developed and sustained. Based upon our core values, our primary responsibility to colleagues is to establish and maintain settings and relationships that support productive work and meet professional needs. The same ideals that apply to children also apply as we interact with adults in the workplace.

Should you have additional questions or need to discuss any student issues with me, please do not hesitate to contact me. Again, thank you for your support of our college, our students, and our Early Childhood program.

Sincerely,

Diana L. Abel, Ed.D.

Director, Early Childhood Undergraduate Program
2323 W. 14th Street
Tempe, AZ 85281

480-517-8269
diana.abel@riosalado.edu