Multimode Orientation to Child Day Care

Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology

Objectives for Innovation

Web-based materials, online testing and discussion, and face-to-face weekend sessions to augment print

Intended Audience

Child care workers

Students in early childhood development programs

Results Achieved

Multi-mode certificate-credit course

Culturally-sensitive interactive instruction for group or independent study

Flexible access for students across the province and at SIAST Woodland Campus

Implementation

September 1998

Program Web Site

http://www.siast.sk.ca/~woodland/dos/ community/earchild/index.htm

Additional Benefits

Students value opportunities to meet with other students and instructor online

Use of materials increasing with students' access to computers

The Orientation to Child Day Care program provides interactive multi-mode resources to enhance the print-based component of this certificate-credit course in early childhood development offered at a distance. The web site offers a course outline, summary of important concepts from each module, assignments, exam questions, student support and study skills. Students communicate with each other and the instructor via private e-mail and a bulletin board, and take their quizzes online. The course includes three face-to-face weekend sessions. These multi-mode resources can be adapted easily for face-to-face instruction.

The course is designed to develop the skills and knowledge necessary for employment in child care settings. Topics include child development, health, safety and nutrition, and, child guidance.

Orientation to Child Day Care is the minimum requirement set by the Department of Social Services for employment in day care centres. Increased access to the course across the province helps to provide workplace training for child care workers who do not have this certification. The course can be transferred for credit in the Early Childhood Development Certificate and Diploma programs.

Web-based materials, online testing and discussion help to overcome the traditional problem of inadequate communication and interaction in the print-based course.

Contact

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