

PACIFIC RIM EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTE INC.



Preparing for Practicums

Pacific Rim Early Childhood Institute Inc. is committed to the belief that children should have an opportunity to participate in quality child care programs with trained staff. To meet this objective, training programs and practicums have been developed to prepare students to work with infants, toddlers, preschoolers and children with special needs.

There are three practicums in the “Basic” program: Practicum One (Observing and Recording) which takes 5 weeks to complete; Practicum Two which takes 3 weeks to complete and Practicum Three which takes three weeks to complete. There are also two 5-week practicums in the “Post-Basic” program for Special Needs and Infants/Toddlers.

Practicum One

Students will complete 225 hours (15 hours during Week One observations, 140 hours of “in-centre” time during the block portion and 70 hours for assignments) for Practicum One. In the first week, students will observe at five different child care settings (e.g., licensed group care facility for children 3-5, Montessori program, co-op program or after-school program). Students will be in attendance at least 3 hours a day in these centres, and spend 3-4 hours a day completing their Practicum One assignments.

For the next four weeks, students will work full-time in one centre. This can be done on a full or part-time basis as long as the hours are accumulated. This centre must be different from the ones visited during the first week, and must be a licensed group (3-5) centre.

Your Pacific Rim Practicum Instructor will call during Week One of your 4-week block practicum to speak with you and your Centre Supervisor to answer any questions you may have and to discuss how things are going. She may also call again during your final week if required.

Practicum Two

Students must complete 125 hours (105 hours “in-centre” time and 20 hours for assignments) in one licensed day care facility over a three-week period. During this practicum, students will be required to videotape three activities where they interact with the children. The video clips should be approximately 10-15 minutes long and should be submitted to the Pacific Rim Practicum Instructor on a regular-size dvd (not mini-dvd). An Activity Plan will be submitted for each of the activities (forms will be supplied in your practicum package). It is the student’s responsibility to find a video recorder and to arrange for someone to videotape these activities.

Practicum Three

Students must complete 125 hours (105 hours “in-centre” time and 20 hours for assignments) in a licensed day care facility over a three-week period. This can be the same facility as with Practicum Two or a different facility. Two out of the three practicums can be taken at the same facility. Again, in this practicum, students will be required to videotape activities with the children – for this practicum, it will be 7 activities – 3 structured activities, and 4 free play activities. These video clips should be 10-15 minutes long, and should be accompanied by an Activity Plan write-up.

Infants and Toddlers Practicum

Students must complete 200 hours (175 hours “in-centre” time and 25 hours for assignments) in an infant/toddler centre over a five-week period. Students will be required to do six video clips (10-15 minutes each) to demonstrate competencies in developmentally and age appropriate activities and guidance techniques for infants and toddlers. Each video clip should be accompanied by a write-up outlining the competency and how it was demonstrated.

Special Needs Practicum

Students must complete 200 (175 hours “in-centre” time, 6 hours of center observation time and 19 hours for assignments) hours which will include a five-week block practicum in a centre that includes children who need extra support. The practicum must be taken under the supervision of an individual who has been licensed by the Child Care Registry as a Special Needs Educator in BC. As with the Infant/Toddler Practicum, students will be required to plan and implement six activities/experiences that will support a child with special needs to interact with his or her peers. These activities will be videotaped (10-15 minute video clips) and submitted to your Practicum Instructor with write-ups describing the competency and evaluating the results.

Considerations for International Students

Practicums may be taken in a childcare facility (preschool, daycare) for children 3-5 with English speaking ECE teachers. A qualified ECE teacher can act as a centre supervisor and will have a diploma in ECE from an accredited College or University. There are English speaking facilities located worldwide that students can take advantage of.

Choosing a Centre for your Practicum

Students will choose their own practicum placements. It is recommended that students complete their practicum in a centre outside of the one that they are currently working in. This will allow for the optimum level of objectivity. Most students can find placements in their community where they can complete all the practicum requirements. The local Child Care Resource and Referral Centre will have a list of licensed early childhood education centres. The Centre Supervisor must have a current ECE License. Family Day Care Homes are not acceptable for completing practicum placements.

Full practicum packages outlining required assignments, guidelines for students, centre supervisors and practicum instructors, and competencies will be available upon registration. The first thing that students must do once they have reviewed their packages and chosen their centre, is submit the Practicum Plan (signed by the Centre Supervisor) to their Pacific Rim Practicum Instructor. A sample Practicum Plan is attached for your information.