



## Special Needs Educator Certificate

### Program Outline

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**PROGRAM NAME:** *Special Needs Educator Certificate*

**PROGRAM HOURS:** 470

**PROGRAM DURATION:** 25 weeks, full-time

#### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

*This program is designed to assist students to gain the skills necessary to work with children who need extra support in a child care setting. Courses cover the following topics: benefits of inclusion, effects of a disability on the child and family, intervention strategies, and early intervention. Courses will also discuss strategies for early childhood educators to maximize the potential of children with extra support needs.*

#### CAREER OCCUPATION

*This program prepares graduates to work in group licensed child care facilities as a certified Special Needs Educator (SNE) and in related careers in the sector of Early Childhood Education.*

#### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

**Prospective students for all programs must submit the following:**

- 1) A \$250 non-refundable application fee; and
- 2) A completed online application including the following:
  - a. An **admission interview** indicating suitability for the program.
  - b. An **official transcript** indicating successful completion of:
    - i. **Grade 12 English** or equivalent course; or
    - ii. Any Canadian university-level English course; or
    - iii. An English Assessment indicating English proficiency equivalent to successful completion of Grade 12 English from a recognized university or college.
  - c. Two **letters of reference** indicating suitability to be an Early Childhood Educator (current within a year).
  - d. Government issued **photo identification** such as a driver's licence. Students must be 19 years of age prior to starting a full-time program.
  - e. A **criminal record check** (current within a year) indicating that no criminal record is found for the purpose of working with children. \*
  - f. A **declaration of health** declaring suitability and capacity to be an Early Childhood Educator.

*\*An updated Criminal Record Check may be required for practicum placements if it has expired before the practicum portion of the program.*

The Basic ECE Certificate program **must** be completed prior to beginning the Infant Toddler Educator or Special Needs Educator Certificate programs.



## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

*At the end of this program, students will be able to understand inclusion and its implications for families, children and staff; become familiar with the major areas of disability that can affect young children, develop an awareness of factors involved in identifying young children who need extra support; know how to design the environment of a child care setting to facilitate the inclusion of children who need extra support; be familiar with community resources including knowledge of referral procedures; and develop strategies for expanding and enriching early childhood programs to benefit the experiences of all children.*

## **METHODS OF EVALUATION**

*The final grade for each course will be calculated and weighted based on grades received for the assignments and exam. The final outcome for the practicum will be calculated and weighted based on satisfactory completion and submission of the assignments, activities and evaluation(s) required.*

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

*A student is eligible to graduate from a program when he/she has successfully completed all courses and practicums in that program. Students are required to receive a passing grade of “C” or higher for all academic courses and a “Pass” for all practicums. Upon completion of all three Certificate programs, students are granted an ECE Diploma.*

*Transfer students must have completed at least the majority (51%) of the training through Pacific Rim Early Childhood Institute in order to receive a Certificate or Diploma. Students completing a certificate or diploma that have not taken the majority of the program through PRECI may still order and receive a transcript of courses.*

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

*A complete list of required textbooks can be found in our [textbook list](#).*

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

*To successfully complete the program, students will need to have regular access to a reliable computer with access to the Internet, a personal email account, Microsoft Word (or an equivalent to read and write .doc or .docx files), and Acrobat Reader (or equivalent to read .pdf files). In addition, students will require access to a printer and scanner.*

## **FEES AND OTHER EXPENSES**

*Exam proctors may charge a fee to supervise the final exam. This fee will vary depending on the proctor a student has selected. The proctor fee is usually between \$30 and \$75 per exam.*

## **PENALTIES**

*Students are required to abide by the ECEBC [Code of Ethics](#) at all times, submit original work (no cheating or plagiarism), respect all staff members and members of the community, submit assignments on time, submit extension requests on time (if required), submit complete assignments which follow the grading criteria, act professionally, maintain a clear criminal record check for the purposes of working with children, and comply with all the requirements of the Student Enrollment Contract. The “Academic Dishonesty Policy” and “Dismissal Policy” are available to read in the [Student Handbook](#).*



## Program Organization

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This Special Needs Educator Certificate Program is made up of the following courses, which should be taken in the order listed. The learning of each course will build on and reinforce the learning of the previous course.

- **Infant/Toddler Growth and Development** (10 weeks – 70 hours)
- **Working with Families** (10 weeks – 45 hours)
- **Centre Administration** (10 weeks – 45 hours)
- **Inclusion in Early Childhood Settings Part I** (10 weeks – 65 hours)
- **Inclusion in Early Childhood Settings Part II** (10 weeks – 45 hours)
- **Practicum – Inclusion in Early Childhood Settings** (5 week full time block – 200 hours)