

Human Services Department Orientation

Faculty & Staff Introductions:



Vanessa Sheane, Dean of School of Health, Wellness and Career Studies

Vanessa Sheane is the Dean for the School of Health, Wellness, and Career Studies at GPRC. Vanessa has been with GPRC since 2012. She is a Registered Nurse with a Masters' degree in Nursing Education from the University of Victoria. Her current Doctoral research focuses on the issues and challenges facing undergraduate nursing education. Vanessa is the Dean for four Academic Departments including: Business and Office Administration, Human Services, Nursing Education and Health Studies, and Physical Education and Kinesiology.



Tanya Ray, Chair / Instructor
– Department of Human Services (ELCC & EA)

Tanya has a Master of Arts in Communication & Technology and a Bachelor of Community Rehabilitation. Tanya has taught at the college on and off over the past 25 years but has been a fulltime faculty member for the past 10 years.

Tanya would like to welcome students into the Early Learning program and the Educational Assistant program. She looks forward to meeting you all!



Kathy Weber, Department Assistant
- Department of Human Services

Kathy has been with the Department since 1990. Her main duties are to assist faculty and students in the Early Learning and Child Care and Educational Assistant programs as well as the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Unit Clerk programs.



Valerie Ostara, Instructor
– Department of Human Services

Valerie has been teaching and supporting children and families for over 30 years. She holds a B.Ed from the U of A, a diploma in Child & Youth Care, and has worked as an educator, school counsellor, social services worker, and parent coach. This is Val's third year at GPRC and she extends a warm welcome to all new and returning students in the EA and ELCC programs.



Terrah Lindsay, Instructor
– Department of Human Services

Terrah has been an instructor with GPRC for almost 30 years! She has taught courses in the Early Learning and Child Care program and in the Educational Assistant Program. On occasion, Terrah works as a Speech-Language Pathologist, with pre-school and school aged children. Welcome to GPRC!



Theresa Suderman, Instructor
– Department of Human Services

Theresa has a Bachelor of Arts with a focus in Child and Youth Development. She has been teaching at GPRC since 2005 instructing a variety of Early Learning and Child Care courses as well as Educational Assistant courses. Theresa recently completed certification as a Forest School Practitioner and is a strong advocate for children spending time in nature. She looks forward to meeting and working with all the new Human Services students.

Remote Delivery

Within the Early Learning and Child Care program & the Educational Assistant program, the 2021 Winter Semester will be conducted through remote and online delivery. Remote delivery refers to synchronous learning following the published timetable. Please ensure you are available for all of your scheduled class times as Instructors will be reviewing attendance and may have participation marks attached to your attendance and participation in Zoom meetings.

Practicum has a seminar component which will be delivered through Zoom. The hands-on component of practicum will be scheduled and adapted according to COVID-19 restrictions for Early Learning settings and schools. More information is to come!

Students who are admitted to the program will receive information on recommended immunizations with their admission package. For student safety, it is recommended that immunizations are up to date. All students are required to submit a police information check, including a vulnerable sector clearance.

Student Advocacy

Throughout the semester if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your instructors as they will provide you with guidance, grades rationale, and general information regarding the Early Learning and Child Care & Educational Assistant program. For additional support or concerns, please contact Kathy Weber at 780-539-2753 or kweber@gprc.ab.ca to make an appointment with Tanya Ray, Chair of the Department of Early Learning and Child Care.

Regular attendance is critical to success in the Early Learning and Child Care & Educational Assistant program. Should you be unable to attend a class, please contact your instructor. In addition, it is your responsibility to acquire the material missed and to complete the assigned readings, in-class work, and assigned homework.

Academic Advising

Within the Department of Human Services, the faculty acts as Academic Advisors. You will be assigned an Academic Advisor who will reach out to you within the first two weeks of classes if they have not already. Throughout the semester if you have any questions regarding your courses, registrations, Early Learning and Child Care & Educational Assistant program, please reach out to your academic advisor or contact Kathy Weber at 780-539-2753 or kweber@gprc.ab.ca to schedule an appointment.

Early Learning and Child Care – Program Overview

Early Learning and Child Care will prepare graduates for a career working with children from birth to age twelve, and their families. Research studies indicate that the first five years in the lives of children are the most critical in terms of their overall development. A commitment to this worthwhile profession will have long term benefits to young children, their families and the community in which they live and work.

Graduates of the program have excellent opportunities for employment in a variety of different early childhood settings including child care centres, family day homes, nursery schools, inclusive child care programs, kindergartens, and out-of-school programs. Diploma graduates of Early Learning and Child Care are highly sought after by employers and have excellent opportunities to advance in their careers.

Early Learning and Child Care Certificate graduates qualify for certification as a Child Development Worker through Alberta Children Youth Services (www.child.alberta.ca). Students with a Diploma qualify for certification as a Child Development Supervisor through Alberta Children and Youth Services.

Early Learning and Child Care Certificate:

This two-semester program will prepare students for employment in a variety of early childhood settings. Early Learning and Child Care Certificate graduates qualify for certification as a Child Development Worker through Albert Children and Youth Services.

First year (36 credits)

CD1000 Child Development I (3)
CD1011 Introduction to Early Learning and Child Care (2)
CD1020 Health, Nutrition and Safety
CD1045 Practicum I (3)
CD1050 Art, Literature and Music
CD1100 Child Development II
CD1145 Practicum II (5)
CD1330 Understanding Children's Play (3)
CD1350 Supporting Children's Behavior I (2)
CD1370 Guiding Children's Behavior I (2)
CD2070 Infant Toddler Care (2)
HS1000 Interpersonal Communication
HS1130 English (3)

Early Learning and Child Care Diploma:

The Diploma provides graduates with a greater variety of employment opportunities with young children and their families and more opportunity for advancement within the field of Early Learning and Child Care. Diploma graduates will be better prepared for administrative and supervisory positions within the field. They qualify for certification as a Child Development Supervisor through Alberta Children and Youth Services.

Second year (32 credits)

CD2020 Environments for Young Children (2)
CD2030 Administering Early Childhood Education Programs (2)
CD2045 Practicum III (4)
CD2050 Science, Math and Social Knowledge (3)
CD2080 Interpersonal Communication II
CD2090 Child, Family and Community
CD2110 Working With Families (2)
CD2120 School Age Care and Development

Educational Assistant – Program Overview

The Educational Assistant program will enable graduates to work in educational settings under the supervision and direction of the teacher, providing support to students who require assistance in developmental, behavioural, and/or learning tasks. Graduates of the Educational Assistant program will be prepared to work with children in the school system from K-12, in both resource rooms and regular classrooms. Graduates will also be employable in a wide range of out-of-school settings such as early intervention, day care, Head Start, or as private educational supports.

Course work will provide students with the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to work effectively with children and teachers in diverse educational settings. Students will learn about human development, speech and language support, remedial math and reading, behavioural management exceptionalities, interpersonal communication, and the roles and responsibilities of a paraprofessional in an educational setting.

Practicum is an integral part of this Certificate program and assures that students have the opportunity to apply theory to practice. Practicum in a community outside of Grande Prairie may be available and will be considered on an individual basis.

Educational Assistant Certificate:***Program Curriculum******First year (37 credits)******Fall and Winter***

HS1000 Interpersonal Communication (2)
HS1102 Behavioural and Functional Assessment (3)
HS1130 English (3)
HS1202 Behavior Management Strategies (3)
HS1203 Interpersonal Competence (1)
HS1217 Language and Literacy (2)
TA2100 Exceptionalities in School Age Children (3)
HS2440 Human Development: Birth through Adolescence (3)
TA1231 Speech and Language Interventions (2)
TA1234 The Role of the Para-professional in the Classroom (2)
TA1235 Practicum (1)
TA1236 Remedial Reading and Mathematics (3)
TA1367 Supporting Technology in the Classroom (2)
Two of: TA1232 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (1) or
TA1237 Autism Spectrum Disorder (1) or
TA1239 Intro to Mental Health in Schools (1)

Spring

TA1238 Practicum (5)

Zoom Etiquette 101***Control video and audio quality.**

Invest in a quality webcam and speaker and microphone headset. These provide better video and audio than your computer's built-in system. Try to attend Zoom meetings in quiet, indoor locations to control ambient noise.

Adjust your lighting.

Don't sit directly in front or beside a bright light source, or else all the audience sees is a bright light and a shadowy figure. Experiment with moving lamps and your camera until you can see your brightly-lit face on the screen.

Think about your background.

Try to provide a nice, plain background. You can't control everything in a mobile environment, but you should give some thought to background prior to your meeting.

Practice speaking to the camera and not the screen.

Our tendency is to look at the person on the screen, but you should look at the camera when you speak so the audience feels like you're talking directly to them.

Optimize Zoom.

Generally, DO NOT select "Share Your Desktop" (unless you want every pop-up email and private message on display for your audience!). Instead, open any relevant documents before the call and share only those during the meeting.

Bandwidth and signal.

Insure you have adequate bandwidth. If you are wireless, try to remain close to the wireless router and consider installing a signal booster in areas of low signal strength. When you have the option, choose wired (instead of wireless) for video conferencing.

During your meeting:

Mute your microphone when necessary. Zoom has a "Mute Microphone" option that cuts down on ambient feedback for the audience. When there is a lot of back-and-forth discussion you will turn this off, but you should mute yourself when listening to an instructor.

Use Zoom's chat function.

You can send a question or statement to everyone or privately to a participant

Think about your actions on camera.

Always remember that everyone can see you. Someone is watching as you take a big, wide-mouth yawn, stretch, or wander around the room. These exaggerated movements are distracting to the audience and can be disruptive to the speaker. Try to stay still and be attentive.

*Adapted from <https://blog.zoom.us/video-conference-etiquette/>