



# Specific Requirements for Professional Experience for EDEC323: Young Children and the Creative Arts: PrEx 10 days

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**This professional experience placement is a 10 day block professional experience with children aged 3 to 5 years.**

In addition to the generic PrEx requirements, this unit also has a number of specific requirements. These include ongoing observation and planning to continue to build and extend your skills in working with young children and the planning and implementation of **integrated arts and literacy activities** that are the basis of the teaching assignment in this unit.

Most students in this unit will be already working in a service and will have established relationships and knowledge of the service, children and families. For those who are working in an unfamiliar setting, the focus of the first day will be establishing relationships with children educators and families, conducting a situational analysis, documenting observations and beginning planning.

For all students, ensure you have checked the required photo and video permissions are in place for the group of children you are working with. The service will have their own forms.

*There are items that you will be required to show your supervising teacher at your early childhood service. In most instances, you do not also have to show those to your unit coordinator or lecturers. For example:*

- *the 2 learning stories, mind map and Reflective Learning Journal **only needs to be seen** by your supervising teacher, but you do not need to email or submit these to your unit coordinator or teachers.*
- *a blank copy of the photo/video permission from the service **needs to be included in the appendix** of your assignment.*
- *An Ethics Statement also **needs to be included in the appendix** of your assignment and needs to be filled in. You can show the supervising teacher a copy of this to check you have filled it in correctly.*
- *the PREX report showing you have passed the PREX **only needs to go to the OPL office**, not to the unit coordinator or lecturers. Your supervising teacher will send this to the OPL office.*

In the following Timetable for professional experience, you will find more specific guidance for daily tasks and priorities to assist in ensuring all professional experience requirements are met. It is also important to be guided by the *Tracking Expectations Professional Experience Expectations* document. The *Early Childhood PREX Handbook* will need to be downloaded and read. Ensure you refer to the PREXUS Moodle site re relevant professional experience processes, handbooks and dates. Please be aware your PREX related assignment will be marked against the Learning Outcomes for this unit as shown below:

1. demonstrate engagement and skill acquisition in the creative arts, and the ability to reflect upon coherent knowledge of contemporary theories and philosophies of the creative arts at a personal and professional level;

2. plan, implement and evaluate an integrated arts project;
3. present documentation in a variety of contexts that demonstrates how the arts can be a powerful tool for learning;
4. use autonomy and judgement to advocate for the arts as core element in young children's learning in a variety of contexts such as written reports, presentations and discussions; and
5. demonstrate an acceptable standard of communication and professional responsibility.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Timetable for professional experience</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tasks</b></p>
<p><b>Day 1 of professional experience</b></p>	<p><b>Check your supervising teacher has received the professional experience documents via email from OPL.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When using photos and videos you will need to firstly have permission from the parents. Only an example of a blank permission form needs to be included as an appendix of the assignment.</li> <li>2. An Ethical Statement form that you will also need to submit in the appendices of your assignment. This is located in the Assignment 2 section of Moodle.</li> <li>3. Using a digital camera, <b>document</b> a play event or a strong interest of a small group of children. Identify the children's 'big ideas' / 'essence of intent'.</li> <li>4. Identify a topic heading that reflects the interest of that group of children.</li> <li>5. Using your documentation as a starting point, develop a mind map of possible integrated arts experiences for your group of children in your context. Ensure you include one visual art activity (other than drawing) and at least 3 performing arts activities (other than dance, but including music and drama). This mind map needs to be shown to your supervising teacher, however, it may change over the next day or so. You do not need to email this to your lecturers or submit it with your assignment. It is for planning purposes only.</li> <li>6. Write daily in your <i>Reflective Learning Journal</i> and record some initial thoughts about your interpretations of observations and possible planning for the remainder of your PREX. Please see Day 10 for more information about the journal. Ensure your journal logs what you do each day during your PREX so that you and your supervising teacher both have a record of what you have done, and what you still need to do. You will not be submitting or emailing this journal, but your supervising teacher will need to see it each day.</li> <li>7. If this service is new to you, complete a situational analysis and explore and note their arts resources.</li> <li>8. Ensure you discuss the teaching assignment with the supervising teacher and give them a copy of the assignment.</li> </ol>

<p><b>Day 2 of professional experience</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Revisit your mindmap and expand on your ideas for the arts activities that will develop the children's ideas. Include some references from the resources in the unit e.g. activity ideas, readings, texts, Powerpoints, websites lessons etc. Add some references as well. Building on your plans with the same group of children (if possible) you have already observed.</li> <li>2. List and organise materials you will need for your planned activities and discuss this with your supervising teacher.</li> <li>3. Continue to write daily in your reflective learning journal and log your activities.</li> <li>4. Please remember that this is a university level assignment, and therefore we expect authentic arts materials and a higher level of arts engagement that you will encounter in the unit through your learning in the modules. You cannot do activities that are related to 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' or other activities that have become stock, standard arts activities in early childhood services.</li> <li>5. However, you can introduce written and visual texts and stories that are related to the children's "big idea" as stepping off points for the art activities. And do consider encouraging the children to create their own stories and dialogue within the activities.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Days 3 – 5 of professional experience</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support and extend the children's investigation through the arts by implementing the activities. Document the children's '<a href="#">learning stories</a>' around their 'big ideas'. Pay special attention to the pedagogical role of the adult. There should be 2 learning stories, to cover the 1 visual art, and 1 of the performing arts activities for the related assignment. The stories should have a beginning, middle and end story for each area of art.</li> <li>2. Discuss with your supervising teacher about creating a small display of the photos (and possibly the videos) for the parents and community. The display should include the two learning stories and some quotes about the value of arts education. You do not have to submit these, but your supervising teacher will need to see them and approve them for display. This activity is designed to assist you to improve your documenting and advocacy. It should not be a big display that takes a great deal of your time.</li> <li>3. On day 3, ensure you check with the supervising teacher or director as to whether you are on track for your PREX. Meet with your supervising teacher about your Final Report.</li> <li>4. In your journal, write 1 sentence for each activity you implemented to describe the activity. Show this to your supervising teacher for feedback. This can be used in your assignment.</li> </ol>

<p><b>Days 6-9 of professional experience</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Repeat the processes used in week 1 looking at another “big idea” from the children.</li> <li>2. When considering possible art activities try to include some different ones from those used in week 1 (you may use drawing and dance in this week).</li> <li>3. Think about how different art activities can be integrated. For instance making props or costumes or puppets or decor for a performance, or including music within a dramatic performance.</li> <li>4. Remember to encourage the children’s input into the nature and content of the activities.</li> <li>5. Continue to record your reflections in your <i>Reflective Learning Journal</i> on a daily basis.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Day 10 of Professional experience</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to write daily in your <i>Reflective Learning Journal</i> and log your activities. This log and your reflections should be referenced in your final report. This does not need to be detailed and you can use dot points. You can relate your learning to the modules and text, readings, Moodle videos and resources, but you do not need formal referencing here. e.g. ‘This relates to Module X about advocating for the arts’, or ‘This relates to Chapter 4 of the textbook ‘xxx’ and the TED talk video about xxxxx’. This will be big help when you start your assignment.</li> <li>2. In your journal, reflectively evaluate the activities using 2 sentences for each one. Check these with your supervising teacher. This can be used in your assignment.</li> <li>3. In your journal, write 1 sentence about why the activity would support children’s learning using references. Check this with your supervising teacher. This can be used in your assignment.</li> <li>4. Review your Final Report with your supervising teacher and ensure it is signed by both of you.</li> </ol> <p><b><i>Please note that this professional folder is not submitted to UNE it is a personal professional portfolio, but may be required by your Unit Co-ordinator if placement progress is at risk or unsatisfactory.</i></b></p> <p><b>The Final Report is completed Online. If the supervising teacher does not have access they should email the Office for Professional Learning <a href="mailto:opl_reports@une.edu.au">opl_reports@une.edu.au</a>. Once completed it will become available for Student's to download through InPlace.</b></p>