

## Specific Requirements for Professional Experience EDEC355: Young children as Mathematicians PrEx 10 days

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This professional experience placement is a 10 day block professional experience with **children aged 3 to 5 year olds**. The placement can occur in your current service. During this 10 day professional experience you are expected to immerse yourself in the life of the early childhood service and develop your understanding not only of teaching and learning in the early childhood context, but also of the wider context of the service. Your professional experience is aligned with the goals and intent of the Early Years Learning Framework and the Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority.

Upon successful completion of this professional experience, you should be able to:

1. identify and demonstrate how theory, research and practice can lead to a better comprehension of children's problem solving skills;
2. plan for young children's mathematical thinking across a variety of environments and contexts;
3. support children's problem solving and mathematical learning using a play based integrated curriculum focus and using available technology;
4. plan, implement and evaluate relevant curriculum and guidelines;
5. demonstrate autonomy and judgement to professional standards of communication, modelling skills applicable in a professional career; and
6. demonstrate the ability to act professionally when working with young children.

During the professional experience, while you will be assigned to a supervising teacher and his/her group, you are also expected to seek opportunities to visit other groups, with the agreement of both your supervising teacher and the other room leader(s), in order to observe a range of strategies. Check that your supervising teacher has received the professional experience documents via email.

During the first few days the focus is on watching and interacting with children in order to build relationships. This extended period of observation is necessary for you to observe modelling of activities, interactions and teacher responses prior to commencing any teaching of your own. In this professional experience you should be ready, with your supervising teacher's guidance, to take group activities in the second week.

The specific tasks for this professional experience are outlined in the next section.

No student may COMMENCE a professional experience placement prior to the beginning date which has been allocated for Trimester 1.

<p><b>Week 1 of professional experience</b></p>	<p>Discuss your assignment with your supervising teacher. You may complete your placement in relation to the first or second assignment.</p> <p>Please practice the levels of engagement (it does not just have to be related to mathematics) under the guidance of your supervising educator. The levels of engagement descriptions are available on the Moodle site.</p> <p>Spend most of the first week observing, collecting information and building relationships with the children and families.</p> <p>If you will be taking photos of children please make sure to get written permission from parents first.</p> <p>In Week 1 of your placement you will be required to carry out two tasks:</p> <p><b>Task 1:</b> Each day in Week 1 make a journal entry relating to a spontaneous maths interaction you have been involved in with a child or children. Briefly describe the setting, what the children said and did, and how you responded and supported one or more mathematical concept skills. Write a brief reflection outlining what you did well, and what you could do better next time.</p> <p>A format can be found at the end of this document <i>or</i> you can create your own.</p>
<p><b>Week 2 of professional experience</b></p>	<p>Continue to work on your assignment and to build relationships with children.</p> <p>In the second week you must plan and implement <b>two</b> play-based math experiences based on your observation of an incidental event in your placement (possibly something recorded in your journal in Week 1). Please use the template below to plan and reflect on your experience. The second plan <b>MUST</b> be a follow-up/extension of your first plan but may also introduce new mathematical concepts.</p> <p>Complete a reflection of your experience.</p> <p><b>The Final Report needs to be emailed to the Office for Professional Learning by your supervising teacher. The supervising teacher should complete this report on the final day of the placement. It must be signed and dated before being emailed to the Office for Professional Learning <a href="mailto:opl_reports@une.edu.au">opl_reports@une.edu.au</a>.</b></p>

<b>TASK 1: Journal entries</b>		
	<b>Journal entry</b>	<b>Reflection</b>
Day 1 Date:		
Day 2 Date:		
Day 3 Date:		

Day 4 Date:		
Day 5 Date:		

**TASK 2: Available mathematical resources**

**LEARNING EXPERIENCE PLANNING TEMPLATE  
PLAN 1**

Day: Small/Large group (number):

Time: Mathematical Concept/Skill:

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**Rationale**

How is this experience linked to your supervising teacher's program?

Describe the incidental event that initiated the intentional play experience.

How is this experience linked to your observations/journal entries?

**Learning outcomes**

**Developmental learning outcome:** Write at least two developmental learning outcomes that you hope the children to achieve.

**EYLF learning outcomes:** Write at least one EYLF learning outcome that specifically relates to your experience and explain *how* it relates.

**Experience**

*Motivation:* Introduction/How will I engage the children?

*Main Body:* Describe the plan

*Closure:* How will you conclude the experience?

**Environment**

*Preparation:* What do you need to prepare for a safe and engaging environment?

*Resources:* What do you need for this experience?

**Reflection**

To what extent were the learning outcomes achieved?

How well did I use: space?

time?

people?

resources?

Next time I would/would not .....?

**Follow-up/extension**

How will this experience be followed up or extended upon in another lesson plan?

**LEARNING EXPERIENCE PLANNING TEMPLATE  
PLAN 2**

Day: Small/Large group (number):

Time: Mathematical Concept/Skill:

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How is this experience linked to your supervising teacher's program?

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How is this experience linked to your observations/journal entries?

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*Preparation:* What do you need to prepare for a safe and engaging environment?

*Resources:* What do you need for this experience?

**Reflection**

To what extent were the learning outcomes achieved?

How well did I use: space?  
time?  
people?  
resources?

Next time I would/would not .....?

**Follow-up/extension**

How will this experience be followed up or extended upon in another lesson plan?