

Fundamentals Course: **About the Final Project Options**

There are five different options for the final project. Please talk to your course instructor for approval before doing **one** of the following projects. Good luck and have fun with your project!

A) A project based on any session.

Plan a project based on a topic discussed in this course. (For example, the session on setting up engaging environments might inspire you to try something different with the layout or materials available in your child care setting.) Then implement this project in your work setting. When you actually do this project in your work setting, document it with photographs, drawings, or a running written record. Create a large poster or display board that illustrates your project to share with others in this course so that people who were not there can understand what happened. On your display, answer all of the following questions, either in pictures or in words:

- Why did you choose this project to develop?
- What did you plan?
- How was what you planned different than what actually happened? Why do you think that is so?
- What did you learn by doing this project?
- What are the questions that you have after doing this project?

B) An observation project.

Follow the development of a child in your care throughout this course. Do 2-3 observations of this child on a regular basis (at least 15-20 minutes), documenting your observations as discussed earlier in the course. You might focus your observations on the topic for the class that week, and also observe the child's interests and strengths. Spend some time reflecting on these observations. Plan what you might say or do, to support this child's development, based on what you have observed over time. Try out your plans!

For your final project, use all of the information that you have gathered to write a 2-3 page paper and create a visual documentation display. Your paper should answer all of these questions:

- Why did you choose this child to explore through observation? What interested you about this child's development?
- What did the child seem to be learning?
- What were some experiences that you planned based on your observations? What else could you try in the future?
- What did you learn about this child by observing and reflecting?
- What are the questions that you have after doing this project?

Your visual documentation display can be a panel or a book. It should include

- Examples of the child's work (including drawings, photos of constructions, pieces of conversations)
- Photos of the child exploring or creating or doing what you observed
- Your reflections about what the child was learning
- Some of the other questions you still have, or ideas of what you could do next.

C) Demonstration of the core competencies from at least one core knowledge area.

Choose at least one core knowledge area and demonstrate that you have personally gained mastery of all of its level one competencies. (For example, look at the core competencies for Child Development and find ways to show that you can do all of the competencies listed.) Be creative in how you document this mastery. For example, you may want to use photos, videos,

live demonstration, a portfolio, other documentation, and/or some combination of these. Present and report on your own professional development in gaining these competencies.

D) A project of your choice.

See your instructor or course advisor for approval if you have an idea for a unique project. Answer the same questions from Option A as part of your project. (Examples might include writing and reading your own children's book, or creating classroom materials.)

E) A book report.

Read a book related to a topic covered in this course. See your instructor or advisor for approval and if you need some suggestions for appropriate books. Then, write a 4-5 page report. Make your work as neat as possible, and ask someone else to help you proofread it before you turn it in. In your book report, be sure to answer all of the following questions:

- What is the title, who wrote it, and when was it published?
- Why did you want to read this particular book?
- What have you learned by reading this book?
- How can you use what you have learned from reading this book?
- How has this book made you think differently?
- What changes in your practice have occurred or will occur as a result of this new learning?
- What are the questions that you have after reading this book?