



PRE-SCHOOL TEACHING BA PROGRAM

FINAL EXAM TOPICS

2020/21. I. SEMESTER

Recommended and compulsory literature

1. Oates, J. – Wood, C. – Grayson, A. (2005). Psychological development and early childhood. Blackwell. USA:
2. Brooks, P. – Kempe, V. (2014) (eds.). Encyclopedia of language development. Sage Publications. USA.
3. Schnell, Zs. (2016). pdf- Introduction to Psychology coursebook – compiled by your instructor.
4. Mackenzie, Trevor - Bathurst-Hunt, Rebecca (2018). *Inquiry Mindset. Nurturing the dreams, wonders and curiosities of our youngest learners*. EdTechTeam, Irvine, CA, USA.
5. [Smith, L. – Elliot, C. \(2011\). *Child psychology and development for dummies*. Wiley, USA.](#)
6. Englebright F., J.; Schirmacher, R.: *Art and Creative Development for Young Children*. Stamford: Cengage Learning, 2015.
7. Schwake, Susan: *Art Lab for Little Kids*. 52 Playful Projects for Preschoolers. Beverly: Quarry Books, 2012.
8. Patricia M. Lines (200). Homeschooling comes of age.
<http://patricialines.com/files/homeschooling%20comes%20of%20age.htm>
https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Hungary_2011.pdf
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/03004430.2011.569543>
9. Dienes Z. P./ Golding E.W. Learning Logic, Logical Games. E S A 1966
10. Astrid Beckmann A Conceptual Framework for Cross-Curricular Teaching. 2009
11. Zurer Pearson, Barbara: Children with two languages. In Bavin, E. L. (ed.) (2009) *The Cambridge Handbook of Child Language*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. 379-397.



Topics

1. Developmental characteristics of preschool children

- classic theories and frameworks of development
- psychosexual development and psychosocial development
- emotional and moral development of preschoolers
- *Describe the age-specific traits of the emotional behavior of preschoolers, with special attention to anger and joy.*

2. Cognitive development of preschoolers

- explanations of behaviorist views, types of learning
- Piaget's scheme on cognitive development; innate learning mechanisms (modular concept of development)
- intelligence and creativity on children
- factors of cognitive maturation in preschoolers, transition to school, differentiation measures
- *Describe the worldview of preschool age children, through an example of a case study of a preschooler.*

3. Historical aspects of preschool education

- the child image in the past, changes throughout the 20th century
- important figures in the history of education and reform pedagogies (Dewey, Kilpatrick, Montessori).
- *Describe the history and development of preschool as an institution.*

4. Preschool and the place of preschool pedagogy in public education

- National curriculums, centralized vs. local educational programs and curriculum in education
- possibilities of self-designed curriculums in public education
- innovative methods and efficiency in preschool education
- transition from preschool to school: aspects of development and maturation
- responsibilities and rights of an educator – preschool education as a lifelong profession
- *Describe the results of your research at the chosen preschool.*



5. Family as a system

- role of family history in development
- family dynamics influencing personality development, elements and structure of families
- parental education styles and their impact on development
- rights and responsibilities of parents
- factors influencing the functioning and behavior of families: family values and traditions, supporting sub-systems
- relationship of preschool and families, their collaboration for optimal and harmonic development
- children's rights
- *Describe the important contributions of family history research in family pedagogy, possible applications.*

6. Social relationships and their role in personality development

- temperament and its interaction with the environment
- nature vs nurture issues on development
- psychosocial development of identity (Erikson)
- early attachment and attachment styles in development (Ainsworth, Bowlby)
- gender differences in social skills and their development
- peer relationships in preschool age children
- difficulties of integration: behavioral problems, disorders
- *Describe the social relationships of a preschooler as a case study, with special attention to the psychosocial factors you learned about.*

7. Play and its relationship with personality development

- types of play, gamification as a method
- theories of play in development
- psychological importance of plays and games (contents, projection of emotions)
- personality development through plays and games: how it can develop one's personality
- possibilities of group formation through play and games in preschool
- the development of social skills through preschool play
- following norms
- play as a framework for integration (frustration tolerance, behavioral issues)
- *Describe the patterns of play activities in a last year preschooler, along with the forms and patterns of group formation throughout their play.*

8. Pedagogy of play in preschool

- Play as a form of pedagogy: application, concepts, types of play in play pedagogy methodology
- preschool planning in the framework of play pedagogy: applications and analysis of methods
- *Describe the types of play and their coordination in education, provide examples.*

9. Mother tongue and language development in preschool

- specific features of child language and child communication
- diagnostic measures in language development
- language acquisition, its process, unfolding and features of development
- developmental methods and possibilities in preschool, atypical language development
- communication style of the preschool teacher (optimal style, multimodality)
- theories of language development
- language games for developing language skills
- verbal and nonverbal communication and their role in development
- *Describe your own method to develop language skills, in one area of communication (e.g. language comprehension, vocabulary development, articulation, text and sentence production, nonverbal communication, narrative production, etc.).*

10. Literature, culture and becoming a reader in preschool

- culture affecting development, effect of media on early development, with special attention to literary development and cultural competence
- tasks and responsibilities of preschool teachers in nurturing needs of early readers
- support and development of literary skills in preschool
- providing chances and family intervention: possibilities of preschool teachers
- children's books and literature
- illustrations in children's literature
- literary genres in preschool
- psychological conditions of literary experiences, possibilities of reception in children
- motives in tales and child poetry
- professional aspects of selecting pieces of child literature
- preschool teacher's role and methods in literary development
- *Describe your own project of literary development- a complex literary task or a literary project.*



11. Understanding the external world – conscious analysis of preschool activities and one's own experiences

- objectives and tasks of environmental education
- methods and tools in environmental education
- preschool activities fostering environmental protection and sustainability
- understanding factors of society and environmental issues in personality development
- *Describe a method applying environmental protection in preschool education, with examples in everyday preschool practices and routines (in play, in exploring the environment, in activities, in motor skills development, in learning to look after living creatures).*

12. Understanding the external world through the lens of mathematics – maths in human environment

- spatial orientation in 2 and 3 dimensions
- developing spatial orientation skills in preschoolers
- concept of number, symbolic functions and cognitive development in preschool
- basic maths skills and their refinement in preschool methodology
- concept of set in concept formation
- creativity in mathematic skills
- *Describe a project where you teach preschoolers about mathematical concepts and number through play, activities, in motor development, through explorative- and nurturing skills.*

13. Music and education in preschool

- tasks and objectives of music education in preschool
- development and refinement of music skills and abilities in children
- functions of folk songs and folk-play and their role in the development and refinement of music competencies
- *Describe the complex development of music competencies and skills in a concrete example of your experience.*

14. Education targeting healthy lifestyle in preschool years, with methods of physical education

- areas of development in teaching about healthy lifestyle and applicable methods in daily routines
- goals and objectives of preschool Physical Education (P.E.), conditions of implementation
- methods tools and strategies in preschool P.E.



- *Describe and show a concrete physical exercise by choosing one motor skill and explain its developmental function.*

15. Artistic Development, Processing Art and Art Products of Preschool Children together with Teachers Guidance

- Creative Experiences through Visual Arts
- Theories and Stages of Artistic Development: general developmental explanations for child art; scribble patterns; schemes and their development
- Art and Aesthetics: aesthetics and child development; understanding art
- The Elements of Art, (activities to help children learn about them)
- Three Different Ways of Teaching Art, (Child-Centered Art versus Teacher-Directed Projects)
- *Describe and show how to plan, implement and manage an activity of visual arts in a given theme (e.g. seasons, holidays, family) and review tools, materials and techniques!*

16. Homeschooling for preschool children

- Homeschooling Law
- Legal status and resources on homeschooling in Hungary and in the Netherlands. Homeschooling education support in Hungary and in the Netherlands

17. Teacher Professional Development: Classroom discipline

- "Classroom behavior management practices in kindergarten classrooms: An observation study".
- Expectations for the transition from kindergarten to primary school amongst teachers, parents and children

18. Intercultural Communication

- integration of cultures in the preschool environment
- social psychology and education
- intercultural communication: barriers of understanding
- methods for inclusion and integration: project pedagogy
- collectivistic vs individualistic cultures and communication patterns
- stereotypes vs prejudice in society and culture
- *Describe a method that helps in the integration of a different culture student or someone in the group with disabilities or any other difference compared to the majority culture of the group (linguistic or ethnic).*



19. Define the concept and characteristics of bilingualism

- Definitions and the history of bilingualism,
- the bilingual brain
- second language acquisition and learning.
- Describe the language acquisition pathways: simultaneous
- successive of bilingual children;
- Kindergarten program types in the bilingual education in the childhood
- *Describe a child's bilingual language acquisition based on an interview or an observation.*

20. Cross-Curricular Approaches to Developing Structural Thinking

- Objectives of Cross-Curricular Approaches
- Organization of Cross-Curricular Approaches
- Examples of Cross-Curricular Approaches
- Describe the advantages of a cross-curricular approach
- Playing with Attribute blocks, with parts of the body, with elements of language, with musical tones

21. Games to Developing Structural Thinking - Zoltán Dienes' heritage and beyond

- Games to develop logic with the Attribute Blocks
- Games with the People Logic Set
- Games with the Logic Track
- The Sixteen Game (with three different woods)
- Describe the advantage of learning/playing with well-designed manipulatives
- Equivalence relations, sets, ordering of sets, the use of trees for multicriteria orderig of sets

