

**EDTE 504: Creating Healthy, Safe Environments for Infants and Toddlers**  
(2 units)

**Time:** 8 AM- 4 PM, M-F, Summer 2010

**Room:** MRH127

**Instructor:** Dr. Silvia Dubovoy, Alejandra Rosas, Corina Allende

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**Office Hours:** By appointment.

**Course Description**

This course provides students with the skills to design a prepared environment for the child in the infant and toddler communities. The student will learn to plan an entire environment, complete with areas for sleeping, eating, working and hygiene, in order to foster health and safety. There will be a strong emphasis on how interpersonal relationships affect the child. Teaching the students methods of guidance without interference, promoting self-help, and eliminating unnecessary aid to the child are primary goals for the course.

**Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, candidates will achieve the following outcomes:

**Outcome A: Academic Excellence, Critical Inquiry and Reflection**

- Students will demonstrate their knowledge of the preparation of the environment from birth to 5 months, from 5 to 12 months, from 12 to 36 months and how environment and interpersonal relationships foster healthy and safe development in children.
- Students will demonstrate their knowledge of how a prepared environment for children from three to six years of age promotes independence, concentration and learning.
- Students will be able to explain Montessori's theory of education as an "aid to life" throughout the social stages of development and identify obstacles to movement, language, freedom and independence in the children's environment.
- Students will gain an understanding of how to prioritize various techniques of parental support and classroom organization and be able to implement them when practice teaching.

**Outcome B: Community and Service**

- Students will be given the opportunity to prepare an appropriate environment for the different ages in any community. This opportunity will allow them to share with others their knowledge and understanding of how optimum child development can be promoted through a prepared environment.
- Students will be given the opportunity to speak at community centers, or other educational facilities which provide community services, on various topics related

to child development, independence, nutrition, or anything else they feel addresses the needs of the particular community.

**Outcome C: Ethics, Values and Diversity**

- Each student will employ culturally sensitive strategies, taking into account the child's family history and cultural background in both classroom matters and interaction with parents.

**Course Requirements**

**Required Texts:**

Montanaro, Silvana Q. (1991). *Understanding the Human Being: The Importance of the First Three Years of Life*. Mountain View, CA: Nienhuis.  
Montessori, Maria. (1988). *The Absorbent Mind*. England: Clio Press.  
Montessori, Maria. (1998). *The Secret of Childhood*. London: Sangam Books Limited.  
Montessori, Maria. (1989). *The Formation of Man*. Oxford: Clio Press.  
Montessori, Maria. (1992). *Education and Peace*. Oxford: Clio Press.  
Lillard, Paula P. and Lynn Lillard Jessen. (2003) *Montessori From the Start: The Child at Home, From Birth to Age Three*. New York: Shocken.

**Reading and Class Participation**

Class members are required to independently read all assigned materials and to prepare for discussions of the readings before coming to class, attend all classes and guest lecturers. Active participation in every class session is expected.

**Materials**

Students will create a topponcino, mobiles, bib and tablecloth, and two handmade toys.

**Assessment Criteria**

Materials: topponcino, mobiles, bib & tablecloth, 2 toys	40%
Exam	40%
Participation	20%

**Grading**

A	=	94-100%
A-	=	90-93%
B+	=	87-89%
B	=	83-86%
B-	=	80-82%
C+	=	76-79%
C	=	73-75%
C-	=	69-72%
D+	=	66-68%
D	=	63-65%
D-	=	60-62%
F	=	Below 59%

