



*Course Title: Social Emotional Education Through Literature in the
Elementary Setting*

Instructors: Dr. Kristi Gerhard & Ms. Megan Pavlick

Molloy University Summer Institute

Course Description

This course explores the powerful role of literature in fostering social emotional learning (SEL) in elementary school students. Through the analysis of various literary texts, students will develop a deep understanding of how stories can help children understand their own emotions, build empathy, develop healthy relationships, and make responsible decisions. The course will examine a variety of literary genres and explore how these texts can be effectively integrated into the elementary classroom to promote SEL.

Course Format: Hybrid Totally Online (Part Zoom, Part Canvas)

Anticipated Zoom Meetings include:

- 8:30-9:00 AM Zoom
- 2:30-3:00 PM Zoom

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will:

1. Define social emotional learning (SEL) and its importance in early childhood education.
2. Analyze the role of literature in fostering SEL in elementary school students.
3. Identify key SEL competencies, such as self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making.
4. Analyze various literary texts to identify themes, characters, and plot elements that support SEL.

5. Develop strategies for effectively integrating literature into the elementary classroom to promote SEL.
6. Create lesson plans that incorporate literature to address specific SEL competencies.

Required Texts (Optional)

- The Invisible Boy by Trudy Ludwig
- Our Class is a Family by Shannon Olsen
- Our School is a Family by Shannon Olsen
- Elephant in the Dark based on a poem by Rumi
- Sticks vs. Stones written by Rosanne L. Kurstedt
- They All Saw A Cat written by Brendan Wensel
- Big Problems, Little Problems written by Ben Feller
- Wagons Ho! By George Hallowell and Joan Holub
- Monsters in the Fog written by Ali Bahrapour
- XO, Exoplanet written by Deborah Underwood
- Duck! Rabbit! Written by Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Tom Lichtenheld
- What Do You See? A Conversation in Pictures written by Barney Saltzberg
- The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes by Mark Pett and Gary Rubinstein
- Noel the First by Kate McMullen
- Rosie Revere, Engineer by Andrea Beaty
- Emily's Art by Peter Catalanotto
- Salt in His Shoes by Deloris Jordan
- Iggy Peck, Architect by Andrea Beaty
- Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae
- Dream Big, Little Pig! by Kristi Yamaguchi
- Going Places by Paul A. Reynolds and Peter H. Reynolds
- It's Okay to Make Mistakes by Todd Parr
- Growing a Growth Mindset: Unlocking Character Strengths through Children's Literature by Kevin Sheehan and Jessica Ryan

Course Access:

This course will be accessible through Molloy's Canvas portal. Log in using your Molloy email/username and password to locate the course and its corresponding assignments. All assignments, materials, and modules will be on our course's page.

Course Outline

Day 1:

The Importance of Social Emotional Learning in Early Childhood Education

- Defining social emotional learning and importance in early childhood education
- Analyzing the role of literature in fostering SEL

Respect & Kindness

- Exploring text titles that reinforce respect and kindness
- Introducing lessons that reinforce respect and kindness
- Implementing a follow up - School Wide Recognition
- Exploring the impact of respect and kindness on child development, school relationships, and academic achievement

Day 2:

Relationships

- Exploring text titles that reinforce relationships
- Introducing lessons that strengthen relationships
- Exploring the follow up with optional activities to build relationships
- Exploring the impact that strong relationships have on child development, school relationships, and academic achievement

Perspective

- Exploring text titles that reinforce perspective
- Introducing lessons that require students to consider the perspective of another person
- Exploring the impact that perspective taking has on development, communication, conflict resolution, relationships, and academic achievement

Day 3:

Growth Mindset

- Exploring text titles that reinforce grit and growth mindset
- Introducing lessons that challenge students to develop a sense of grit and perseverance for long-term goals
- Exploring the impact that growth mindset has on development, and academic achievement

SEL Competencies

- Identify key SEL competencies, such as self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making.
- Develop strategies for effectively integrating literature into the elementary classroom to promote SEL.

Day 4:

Reflection

- Participants will analyze literary texts for SEL themes

Presentations

- Participants will present their lessons that incorporate literature to address specific SEL competencies

Assessment & Evaluation

Participants will be evaluated based on:

- Participation in discussions (30%)
- Reflections based on readings (20%)
- Lesson plan presentations (50%)

Additional Resources

- Videos
- Online forums for collaboration and discussion

Instructor Contact Information:

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