

NEW ZEALAND FREE KINDERGARTEN UNION

Syllabus for
TEACHER TRAINING COURSE.

The aim of the course is to foster the growth of the student's interest in children and her understanding of them.

To further the student's own development into a well-adjusted responsive adult, so that she may create an atmosphere which provides good conditions for the all-round development of young children.

Each subject is considered in terms of :-

- (a) The student's own knowledge and appreciation.
- (b) Application to practice in Kindergarten and other pre-school institutions.

Subjects studied:

- Child development.
- Psychology
- Methods of Pre-School Education.
- The History of Pre-School Education.
- Health.
- Speech
- Children's Literature.
- Nature Study.
- Music.
- Art
- Handcrafts.
- Physical Education.
- Committee Organisation.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT - 3 terms 1st year:

A study is made of the processes of growth and development, thus deepening the student's knowledge of the child as an individual and as a member of society.

Lectures cover the broad phases of development from birth to maturity, of which infancy and early childhood are studied in greater detail. They are illustrated by observation, discussion, films and visits to Welfare Centres.

PSYCHOLOGY: 3 terms 2nd year:

An elementary study of general psychology in its physical, mental and social aspects.

This course is linked with the course in Child Development. Topics include: Heredity and Environment, Drives and Impulses, Play, Learning, Individual differences, Behaviour difficulties, Mental testing, etc.

METHODS OF PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION: Two-year Course.

This course outlines the principles of education and ways of meeting the essential needs of children, both individual and collectively. Techniques necessary in the conduct of a well-organised Kindergarten are acquired through study, observation, demonstration and practice.

HISTORY OF PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION: 2 terms 2nd year.

From this course the student gains some knowledge of the influence of outstanding educators in the Pre-School field from the 18th century to modern times, and the effect of their philosophy on present-day procedures.

A more intensive study is made of Pre-School Education in Great Britain, U.S.A., Australia and New Zealand.

HEALTH : 3 terms.

The essentials for health, particularly in early childhood, and the means by which good health is maintained, are revealed in this course.

Lectures and demonstrations include:

The requirements for health in childhood
Personal hygiene.
Care of environment and equipment.
Infection - minor ailments - First Aid.
Sex education.
Public Health Services.

SPEECH : 3 terms.

The course is planned to give the student some knowledge of the function and importance of speech, so that she may -

- (a) make the best use of her own voice;
- (b) understand the development of normal speech and build good speech habits in children.

Practical work includes opportunity for :-

- (a) Observation in Speech Therapy.
- (b) Drama and Public Speaking.

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE: 3 terms.

The aim of this course is to develop a knowledge and appreciation of literature for children, and skill in the art of story telling. The writing of original stories is encouraged.

NATURE STUDY : 3 terms 1st year.

This study seeks to stimulate interest in, and appreciation of, nature and to enable the student to guide the children's observations and experiences.

Studies are centred around seasonal interests and include the care and observation of living things. The course is amplified by excursions and films.

MUSIC: 2-year Course.

Through this course the student is given opportunity for musical expression and appreciation, thus helping her to plan worthwhile and enjoyable experiences for children.

An elementary study is made of the Theory of Music and of the works of different composers.

Practical work includes Rhythmic Movement, Singing, Piano, and the selection of music suitable for young children.

ART: 2-year Course.

This course is planned to develop the student's individuality and powers of expression through drawing, painting and design; to cultivate good taste and judgment through study of Fine Arts, and to reveal to the student the significance of child art.

HANDCRAFTS: 2-year Course.

This course provides opportunity for the student's own creative expression through the use of various media and leads her to an appreciation of the children's efforts and an understanding of their needs.

Training in the provision and maintenance of Kindergarten equipment is given.

Lectures on the history and value of Handcrafts are followed by practical experience in woodwork, Clay modelling, Bookcraft, Doll-making and Puppetry.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: 2 -year Course. This subject is taken for the student's own recreation and relaxation and aims to develop qualities essential to a well-integrated individual.

COMMITTEE ORGANISATION: 1 term 2nd year. Through this study the student is given a knowledge of procedure and practice in conducting meetings.