

OFFERED FOR ITS SECOND YEAR – FALL & WINTER, 2006-2007

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING PRACTICUM COURSE

Instructors: Drs. Shelley Hymel and Kim Schonert-Reichl
Meeting: 9am-4pm Mondays
Yearlong: September 2006 to April 2007 (EPSE 561D, 6 credits for a full year course)

Last year, UBC's Faculty of Education broke new ground by offering a unique Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Course. This year-long graduate course includes two components -- classroom-based lectures and discussions (Mondays 9-4) and a separate practicum/field placement (5 to 7 hours/week) through which students learn to apply their skills in a variety of educational settings across the lower mainland. In this course, students

- learn about the nature of childhood social-emotional development in education, mental health, and risk prevention;
- receive training in the some of the latest techniques and approaches for enhancing social-emotional growth in children and adolescents from trainers in the field as well as faculty members;
- understand the importance of evidence-based practice and gain knowledge and experience in evaluating the effectiveness of SEL programs; and
- work directly with children and youth in existing programs in the community, classrooms, and schools as part of their field placement under the supervision of faculty and our practicum facilitator/school liaison.

Drawing on the latest research and theory in child and adolescent development, prevention science, risk and resiliency, and best practices in teaching and learning, students consider social and emotional learning within the cultural contexts in which they occur, emphasizing developmental approaches that acknowledge cultural diversity. Using a "train the trainer" model, the SEL practicum course provides students with training in several different intervention approaches offered from established programs such as SafeTeen, the UBC Ropes Course, and Leave Out Violence, Restorative Practices, Mindfulness Education, Moral Dilemma discussions, etc., as well as programs offered through the Vancouver School Board's focus on "social responsibility" (e.g., Second Step, Focus on Bullying), programs developed by UBC faculty (e.g., Anti-discrimination response training or A.R.T., FRIENDS program on anxiety) or being evaluated by UBC faculty (e.g., Roots of Empathy).

The practicum field placement (5-7 hours/week) begins with school based observations (October), followed by program/curriculum development activities (November) and direct teaching of cooperative games to children (December), leading to a longer-term practicum placement that continues until April 2007. The practicum serves an integrating function for content taught in the classroom-based portion of the course as students get the opportunity to "try out" some of the techniques they learn in a real world setting and gain hands-on experience in a SEL prevention and intervention program.

Over the year, students use dialogue journals and critical discussion to improve their practice, submitting weekly written reflections of their practicum and training experiences. At the end of the first term, each student is also expected to also prepare a capstone project that integrates theory and practice in SEL. At the end of the course, students participate in a conference on SEL, sharing what they have learned with others in education.

The course is aimed at masters and doctoral level teachers and graduate students in counseling and developmental psychology, special education, school psychology, and related disciplines who wish to learn about the latest cutting-edge theory and research in the area of social-emotional learning, prevention science, and intervention and how to apply this knowledge in practice to enhance the lives of children and youth.

This course is offered in honour of Edith Lando, who dedicated her life to helping children and youth reach their full potential, and is made possible through the generous donations of the Edith Lando Charitable Foundation, the Edward D. and Anna Mitchell Family Foundation and the Attias Family Foundation.

Enrollment is limited; permission of the instructors is required (email: shelley.hymel@ubc.ca OR kimberly.schonert-reichl@ubc.ca; phone: Shelley Hymel 604-822-6022; Kim Schonert-Reichl, 604-822-2215).