

# EDU423 Reflective Practices in Early Learning

**School:** School of Education and Tertiary Access

2025 | Semester 2

Online

ONLINE

You can do this course without coming onto campus.

*Please go to [usc.edu.au](https://usc.edu.au) for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.*

## 1. What is this course about?

### 1.1. Description

In this course you strengthen your developing teacher identity through critical reflections of professional knowledge, practice, and engagement. Informed by the EYLF, QKLG and the Australian Curriculum you will use a reflection-for-action lens to analyse early reading instruction for young students across the full range of abilities. You will produce evidence-based practices using the elements of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and oral language to share with parents and carers to further advance young students' thinking, speaking, and reading in the home.

### 1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ONLINE			
<b>Learning materials</b> – Learning materials are independently accessed in Canvas. They include course content, activities, readings and resources for active engagement and participation in the online tutorials.	2hrs	Week 1	7 times
<b>Tutorial/Workshop 1</b> – Tutorial 1: Seven two hour weekly online tutorials scheduled via zoom, involving active participation. Additional modalities may be used to support learning in this course.	2hrs	Week 1	7 times
<b>Tutorial/Workshop 2</b> – Tutorial 2: Three one hour online tutorials scheduled via zoom, involving active participation. Additional modalities may be used to support learning in this course.	1hr	Week 1	3 times

### 1.3. Course Topics

Course topics:

- Brain development, neuroplasticity and language acquisition
- Socio-emotional development, well-being and language development
- Protective early childhood experiences supporting resilience and language development
- Developing teacher identity and teacher impact on student learning
- Approaches to early reading (phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, listening comprehension, reading)
- Australian Curriculum (English) Achievement Standards, General Capabilities
- Australian Curriculum (Technologies) Achievement Standards, General Capabilities

## 2. What level is this course?

400 Level (Graduate)

Demonstrating coherence and breadth or depth of knowledge and skills. Independent application of knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts. Meeting professional requirements and AQF descriptors for the degree. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory or developing knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally undertaken in the third or fourth full-time study year of an undergraduate program.

## 3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

## 4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES MAPPING	PROFESSIONAL STANDARD MAPPING *
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership
1 Demonstrate EYLF and QKLG knowledge of quality learning and teaching including advanced theoretical and philosophical perspectives of an early childhood teacher and the teaching profession.	Knowledgeable Empowered Engaged	1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2
2 Evaluate and apply knowledge and understanding of the Australian curriculum (English) and the Australian curriculum (Technologies) for use in a Prep classroom.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered	1.4, 2.1, 2.5, 2.6, 4.5
3 Evaluate and apply knowledge and understanding of early reading instruction including the elements of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension and oral language.	Knowledgeable Empowered Ethical	1.3, 1.5, 2.1, 2.5, 3.2
4 Engage ethically and sensitively with parents and carers to share, explain and respond to communication on the value of explicit teaching strategies used in early reading instruction.	Knowledgeable Ethical Engaged	3.5, 3.7, 7.3
5 Communicate using clear and concise language in a range of genres for the field of education using appropriate conventions.	Knowledgeable Empowered Engaged	2.5

\* Competencies by Professional Body

CODE	COMPETENCY
AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE FOR TEACHING AND SCHOOL LEADERSHIP	
1.1	Physical, social and intellectual development and characteristics of students: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of physical, social and intellectual development and characteristics of students and how these may affect learning.
1.2	Understand how students learn: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of research into how students learn and the implications for teaching.
1.3	Students with diverse linguistic, cultural, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds: Demonstrate knowledge of teaching strategies that are responsive to the learning strengths and needs of students from diverse linguistic, cultural, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds.
1.4	Strategies for teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students: Demonstrate broad knowledge and understanding of the impact of culture, cultural identity and linguistic background on the education of students from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.
1.5	Differentiate teaching to meet the specific learning needs of students across the full range of abilities: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of strategies for differentiating teaching to meet the specific learning needs of students across the full range of abilities.
2.1	Content and teaching strategies of the teaching area: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the concepts, substance and structure of the content and teaching strategies of the teaching area
2.2	Content selection and organisation: Organise content into an effective learning and teaching sequence.
2.5	Literacy and numeracy strategies: Know and understand literacy and numeracy teaching strategies and their application in teaching areas.
2.6	Information and Communication Technology (ICT): Implement teaching strategies for using ICT to expand curriculum learning opportunities for students.
3.2	Plan, structure and sequence learning programs: Plan lesson sequences using knowledge of student learning, content and effective teaching strategies.
3.5	Use effective classroom communication: Demonstrate a range of verbal and non-verbal communication strategies to support student engagement
3.7	Engage parents/carers in the educative process: Describe a broad range of strategies for involving parents/carers in the educative process.
4.5	Use ICT safely, responsibly and ethically: Demonstrate an understanding of the relevant issues and the strategies available to support the safe, responsible and ethical use of ICT in learning and teaching.
7.3	Engage with the parents/carers: Understand strategies for working effectively, sensitively and confidentially with parents/carers.

## 5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [UniSC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

### 5.1. Pre-requisites

enrolled in ED303

### 5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

### 5.3. Anti-requisites

EDU409 Internship

### 5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

You will draw on your prior knowledge from EDU109 Professional Experience: Play and Pedagogy in Early Learning (autobiographical reflections), EDU217 Professional Experience: Evidence Based Decision Making in Early Learning, EDU213 Teaching English: Curriculum and Pedagogy, EDU340 Teaching Reading and Writing, and EDU361 Teaching English: Language, Literature and Literacy.

## 6. How am I going to be assessed?

### 6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

### 6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

### 6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Literature Review (or component)	Individual	50%	Assignment 1:: 2500-word or equivalent submission for a total of five scholarly articles provided.	Refer to Format	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece	Individual	50%	Assignment 2: 2500 word written submission or equivalent that includes graphic organisers, artefacts and video recording of the story book reading.	Week 7	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

**All - Assessment Task 1:** Information has value

<b>GOAL:</b>	Assignment 1: Demonstration of your Information Literacy through reading, annotating, developing cohesive summaries and critically reflecting on scholarly articles.	
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Literature Review (or component)	
<b>FORMAT:</b>	Assignment 1: A comprehensive written submission, including annotations, a cohesive summary, and a critical reflection of each article, is uploaded to Canvas by 10:00 AM, on Monday, Week 2, Week 3, Week 4, Week 5, and Week 6. In addition, a brief 5-minute oral overview of response to the weekly article and its relevance to your developing teacher identity is to be presented in class during Week 2 to Week 6. This overview should reflect on the key points from your written work to support professional discussion.	
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Learning Outcome assessed</b>
	1 Interpretation of theory and research through scholarly annotations and participation in professional discussion	1
	2 Application of research in the teaching cycle with a focus on planning, teaching and assessing.	2
	3 Evaluation of research with a focus on early reading instruction	3
	4 Articulation of scholarly insights including developing teacher identity through peer discussions	5
<b>GENERIC SKILLS:</b>	Communication, Problem solving, Organisation, Information literacy	

## All - Assessment Task 2: Creative and Written Piece (using storybooks to support early reading instruction).

<b>GOAL:</b>	Assignment 2: Demonstration of research knowledge in early reading instruction, and reading practices during a storybook reading session undertaken with Prep students.		
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece		
<b>FORMAT:</b>	Assignment 2:  Written submission: Three completed graphic organisers and a critical reflection is uploaded to Canvas by 10:00 AM, Monday, Week 8. Video submission: A video recording outlining the key elements of early reading instructions evident in your graphic organisers is uploaded to Canvas Studio by 10:00 AM, Monday, Week 8.		
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<b>No.</b>		<b>Learning Outcome assessed</b>
	1	Integration of research, for innovative early reading instruction (including the elements of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension and oral language);	2 3
	2	Implementation of a range of teaching strategies to encourage student participation in the reading process and language development	3
	3	Reflection-for-action response including parent/caregivers/peer feedback to improve early reading and literacy practice	1
	4	Integration of age-appropriate, high-quality home-based learning activities and resources to support early reading instruction	4
<b>GENERIC SKILLS:</b>	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation, Applying technologies, Information literacy		

### 6.4. Assessment to competency mapping

PROGRAMME DELIVERY MODE	ASSESSMENT TYPE	TITLE	COMPETENCY	TEACHING METHODS
2020 AUSTRALIAN PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR TEACHERS				
All delivery modes	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece	Creative and Written Piece (using storybooks to support early reading instruction).	1.1	Assessed
			1.2	Assessed
			2.1	Assessed
			2.5	Assessed
			2.6	Assessed
			3.4	Assessed
			3.7	Assessed
	Literature Review (or component)	Information has value	7.3	Assessed
			1.1	Assessed
			1.2	Assessed
			1.3	Assessed
			1.4	Assessed
			2.1	Assessed
			2.5	Assessed
			2.6	Assessed
			3.7	Assessed

## 7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

## 8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Canvas site– Please log in as soon as possible.

### 8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

### 8.2. Specific requirements

Current Blue Card for place-based field trip.

It is expected that you will have access to the internet to access electronic material available online via the University Canvas and the library.

## 9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

## 10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

### 10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

### 10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

#### **Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment**

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

- (a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%; and
- (b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

### 10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submissions may be penalised up to and including the following maximum percentage of the assessment task's identified value, with weekdays and weekends included in the calculation of days late:

- (a) One day: deduct 5%;
- (b) Two days: deduct 10%;
- (c) Three days: deduct 20%;
- (d) Four days: deduct 40%;
- (e) Five days: deduct 60%;
- (f) Six days: deduct 80%;
- (g) Seven days: A result of zero is awarded for the assessment task.

The following penalties will apply for a late submission for an online examination:

Less than 15 minutes: No penalty

From 15 minutes to 30 minutes: 20% penalty

More than 30 minutes: 100% penalty

### 10.4. SafeUniSC

UniSC is committed to a culture of respect and providing a safe and supportive environment for all members of our community. For immediate assistance on campus contact SafeUniSC by phone: [07 5430 1168](tel:0754301168) or using the [SafeZone](#) app. For general enquires contact the SafeUniSC team by phone [07 5456 3864](tel:0754563864) or email [safe@usc.edu.au](mailto:safe@usc.edu.au).

The SafeUniSC Specialist Service is a Student Wellbeing service that provides free and confidential support to students who may have experienced or observed behaviour that could cause fear, offence or trauma. To contact the service call [07 5430 1226](tel:0754301226) or email [studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au).

## 10.5. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or [studentcentral@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentcentral@usc.edu.au).

## 10.6. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email [studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au) or call 07 5430 1226.

## 10.7. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email [AccessAbility@usc.edu.au](mailto:AccessAbility@usc.edu.au) or call 07 5430 2890.

## 10.8. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit <https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

## 10.9. Student Charter

UniSC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The [Student Charter](#) sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

## 10.10. General Enquiries

### In person:

- **UniSC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **UniSC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **UniSC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **UniSC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **UniSC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **UniSC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

**Tel:** +61 7 5430 2890

**Email:** [studentcentral@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentcentral@usc.edu.au)