ECE 3313 Field Experience Orientation
The Requirement

- ECE 3313 gives you the pre-k part of your certification
- All ECE 3313 students are required to complete a field experience in a pre-k classroom
- The minimum amount of time is 30 hours spread out over a minimum of 5 weeks (6 hour days)
  - No exceptions, if you do not complete 30 hours or more and you go less than 5 weeks, you will fail the course
  - If this is not possible, please drop the course for this semester and take it another semester
The Background Check

• All student must get a Livescan fingerprint and Bright from the Start approved background check (see the CEPP sign up page for instructions and details) – this costs about $50.
Scheduling Your Hours

• You must:
  – Arrive in the morning at the beginning of the instructional day (between 8 and 9 for most programs)
  – Each week Observe and participate in...
    • Large group
    • Small group
    • Center time
    • A meal time
    • Outside play (weather permitting)

• The preferred model is once per week for 6 hours for 5 weeks (this will enable you to carry out all required field experience assignments comfortably)
Nap Time

• Generally speaking, nap time does not count toward your required hours

• However, you may count naptime if
  – you are in a Lottery Funded Pre-K class (they only are allowed 1 hr for nap)
  – and your collaborating teacher uses naptime for planning and allows you to take part
  – Or if you are in a private pre-k class and the collaborating teacher uses naptime for planning and allows you to take part you may count the first 30 minutes of nap and last 30 minutes of nap but will have to leave or clock out in between these times (this allows you to see how to carry out the beginning and end of naptime and participate in planning)
What Will You Do?

• This field experience is designed to be participatory (not just observing!)
• You are to participate, work with, and play with the children
• Assist the teacher in any way needed (within reason)
• Show lots of initiative and energy
• You will be expected to plan, teach, and observe/assess
• You may NOT...
  – Be left unattended with the children
  – Go into the bathroom with children or help with potty ing
  – Clean private areas of the children or undress children
Signing Up for Field Experience

• Each candidate must sign up for the field experience through Owl Express during the sign up window (this window will only be open for 24 hours)
• If you do not sign up, you will have to drop the class
• Go to the website ahead of time to look at the placements and get an idea of the placement you may want to sign up for
• If you work in a program you May NOT do your field hours on your job if you do not get it approved at least 2 weeks before the sign up. Approval is through Dr. Doug Bell. (also, even if you do sign up for it, you may not be in your work classroom or on the clock)
More about sign up

• Visit the websites of the centers you are considering
• Remember if it is a part time program you may have to visit two instructional days per week to complete the required hours in a timely manner (it just depends on the program)
• Some of the private programs are faith based, this is allowed just make sure you are comfortable with the faith
• GA Lottery Funded Pre-k classrooms are preferred (this will decrease difficulties in completing required assignments and be more likely to match the curriculum)
Professionalism

• Please remember you are a guest in the classroom
• Maintain open and frequent communication with the collaborating teacher
• Dress professional casual
  – No low cuts
  – No midriffs
  – No shorts
  – Skirts and dresses should come past your knees
  – No dangling jewelry (children tend to pull on them)
  – Nails don’t come past your fingertips
  – Closed toed comfortable shoes
  – Be clean and well kept
  – Wear professional looking blouse and slacks (preferred)
  – If you have tatoos try to cover them