



Child Development Department Lab and Field Work Agreement

A major portion of your experience as a student in the Child Development Department includes observing or working with children. Through lab and field work experiences, students observe the principles of child development and have opportunities to gain skills working with children. Course grading and objectives reflect the significant role that experiential learning plays in becoming an early care and education professional; your lab or field work affects the grade that you will get in your course.

The general goals for your field or lab experiences are for you to develop:

- trust in yourself as a growing and competent teacher
- meaningful relationships with children upon which your ideas about teaching and child development will be based
- meaningful relationships with other teachers by discussing observations, questions and ideas about teaching and, if appropriate, children
- practical skills in teaching

In addition to the general goals discussed above, each course has its own lab or field work objectives. These objectives are outlined in your course handout, "Lab Expectations". You are expected to complete these expectations while you participate in lab or fieldwork.

Faculty members understand that Child Development students are in different stages of development as teachers. Many students need only a reasonable amount of supervision from their supervising lab teacher to satisfactorily master the lab objectives of their coursework. Others may require intensive assistance. The procedures outlined on "Procedure for Assisting Child Development Students to Improve Their Lab Practice" are guidelines for providing students assistance in meeting course lab expectations. If you are unable to comply with the plan developed by both your supervising lab or field work teacher and your course instructor, you will:

- receive a "D" or "F" grade in the course
- or be asked to continue working on the plan for the time specified in your contract. You will receive an "Incomplete" for this period of time.

There are also specific expectations regarding student behavior while participating in an early childhood program. These expectations are determined by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services in *Minimum Standards for Licensed Child Care Centers* and the policies of your field placement site. The following standards from *Minimum Standards for Licensed Child Care Centers* determine your eligibility to participate in an early childhood program:

- A person convicted of any felony or misdemeanor listed on the criminal history statement (which you have signed) may not be at a center while children are in care (*Standard 745.651*)
- Anyone with any other misdemeanor or felony indictment or conviction may not be a child care center until an evaluation of risk is completed and approved by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. (*Standard 745.651*)

The following from *Minimum Standards for Licensed Child Care Centers* (**Standard 746.1201**) outline the behaviors expected of anyone participating in field work or lab in an early childhood program:

- Demonstrate competency, good judgment, and self-control in the presence of children and when performing assigned responsibilities;
- Relate to children with courtesy, respect, acceptance and patience;
- Recognize and respect the uniqueness and potential of all children their families and their cultures;
- Not abuse, neglect, or exploit children; and
- Report suspected abuse, neglect and exploitation to PRS or to law enforcement

Standard 746.1403 further requires:

- Volunteers and contractors, whether paid or unpaid, who are regularly or frequently present at the child-care center but not counted in the child/caregiver ratio, must comply with minimum standards that apply to all employees.

(If you are unsure of what minimum standards are required, talk with your instructor or go the website for *Minimum Standards for Child Care Centers* at:

http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Documents/Child_Care/Child_Care_Standards_and_Regulations/final746.pdf.)

Expectations that you field site has for your behavior will be provided to you by the site.

Failure to comply with the standards noted above, to satisfactorily meet the Child Development course goals or to comply with the field placement site's policies and procedures are causes, which may result in the course instructor withdrawing you from the course and/or your dismissal from the Austin Community College Child Development Program. Violations are subject to applicable provisions as outlined in the Austin Community College's Student Discipline Policy.



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I have read and understand the Lab and Field Work Agreement.

I understand that I may be provided a plan to improve my lab or field work practice as outlined in “Procedure for Assisting Child Development Students to Improve Their Lab Practice” and that if I am unable to comply with the plan developed by both my supervising lab or field work teacher and my course instructor, I will:

- receive a “D” or “F” grade in the course
- or be asked to continue working on the plan for the time specified in my contract. I will receive an “Incomplete” for this period of time.
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I understand that if I do not comply with the standards noted above, to satisfactorily meet the Child Development course goals or to comply with the field placement site’s policies and procedures are causes, which may result in the course instructor withdrawing me from the course and/or my dismissal from the Austin Community College Child Development Program. Violations are subject to applicable provisions as outlined in the Austin Community College’s Student Discipline Policy.

Signature of Student

Date

Course: _____

Instructor: _____