



CAMP RIO CTE FIELD EXPERIENCE

FUTURE EDUCATORS IN ACTION

TEACH • ENGAGE • INSPIRE

Education & Training Career Exploration Day
for up to 40 high school CTE students.



REAL STUDENTS. REAL TEACHING. REAL EXPERIENCE.

Students plan, facilitate, observe, and reflect on authentic learning experiences with elementary students while building employability skills for education careers.

HANDS-ON EDUCATOR EXPERIENCES

1 DESIGN FOR LEARNING

Create mini lessons, objectives, questions and engagement strategies.

2 TEACH REAL STUDENTS

Lead age-appropriate Nature Buddies activities in small groups.

3 MANAGE & SUPPORT

Practice transitions, redirection, encouragement and positive reinforcement.

4 OBSERVE & REFLECT

Collect engagement data, evaluate strategies and recommend improvements.



STUDENTS WILL

- Plan and facilitate engaging lessons
- Apply child development principles
- Practice classroom management strategies

CTE + IBC ALIGNMENT

- Principles of Education & Training
- Human Growth & Development
- Instructional Practices / Practicum
- Educational Aide I

INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION AT CAMP RIO

Authentic practice for future teachers, educational aides, and student support professionals

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Future Educators in Action

Education & Training Career Exploration Day

Teach | Engage | Inspire

High school CTE students | 40 participants | Four teams of 10

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Students prepare and facilitate age-appropriate Nature Buddies learning experiences for kindergarten students. The day emphasizes lesson planning, child development, classroom management, engagement, observation, and professional reflection.

CTE and IBC Alignment

CTE Courses	Industry-Based Certification
Principles of Education and Training	Educational Aide I
Human Growth and Development	
Instructional Practices	
Practicum in Education and Training	

Sample Schedule | 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Time	Activity
9:00-9:20	Welcome, career connection, and team assignments
9:20-10:50	Activity Block 1: Design for Learning (90 minutes)
10:50-11:20	Lunch
11:20-12:50	Activity Block 2: Future Educators Practicum (90 minutes)
12:50-1:15	Break, kindergarten departure, and team reset
1:15-2:00	Discussion, review, reflection, and career connections

Student Organization: Four Teaching Teams

Students are divided into four teams of 10. Each team is assigned one Nature Buddies experience: Nature Hike, Wildwood Exploration, Sensory Exploration, or Woodland Rhythms.

Team Roles	Team Structure
Lead Teacher	Observation Recorder
Assistant Teacher	Materials Manager
Educational Aide	Assessment Lead
Engagement Specialist	Communication Lead
Behavior Support Specialist	Reflection Facilitator

Activity Block 1: Design for Learning

Each team prepares a short, developmentally appropriate lesson and facilitation plan for its assigned Nature Buddies activity.

- Define a clear learning objective and age-appropriate questions.
- Plan student engagement, transitions, redirection, and positive reinforcement.
- Prepare materials, safety expectations, role assignments, and an observation guide.
- Practice the lesson and revise the plan before working with kindergarten students.

Activity Block 2: Future Educators Practicum

Teams facilitate learning with kindergarten students in two 45-minute rounds. Students rotate responsibilities so multiple team members practice instructional and support roles.

- Greet students, give directions, ask inquiry-based questions, and support participation.
- Use developmentally appropriate communication and classroom management strategies.
- Monitor safety and document engagement, learning behaviors, and effective teaching strategies.
- Adjust instruction based on student needs and observations.

End-of-Day Discussion and Review

The day concludes with a facilitated review rather than awards. Teams discuss what worked, what they changed, and how the experience connects to education careers and Educational Aide I expectations.

- Which strategies increased participation and understanding?
- How did child development influence communication and lesson design?
- What classroom management approaches were most effective?
- What would the team improve before teaching the lesson again?

Learning Outcomes

- Plan and facilitate an age-appropriate learning activity.
- Apply child development and classroom management principles.
- Practice observation, assessment, teamwork, and professional communication.
- Reflect on teaching effectiveness and explore education and training careers.