

## ***LANGUAGES FOR LEARNING: A FRAMEWORK FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT***

- *Languages for Learning*, comprised of 8 focus areas, can be organized for students who are engaged in, or pursuing a career in Early Childhood Education, or are currently teaching and wish to know more about this approach to teaching and learning.
- The concepts covered in *Languages for Learning* are inspired by the Reggio Emilia Approach, where learning happens through active and creative engagement in experiences that are characterized by teacher mindfulness, family involvement and a resource-rich learning environment.
- *Languages for Learning* will create a sustainable program of instruction, offer a holistic approach to teaching and learning, be theoretically grounded, research-based and applicable to diverse early learning communities.

### **Focus Area: Fundamentals of the Reggio Approach to Early Childhood Education**

Investigate the organization and philosophy of the world-renowned Reggio Emilia Municipal Schools through reading, dialogue, and observations of local classrooms. Examine the importance of environment, aesthetics, collaboration and the metaphysical concept of “The Hundred Languages of Children”.

### **Focus Area: Documentation: Making Learning Visible**

Within a framework shaped by deep respect for children’s competencies, we will explore how the process of documentation offers teachers an elegant strategy to reflect the depth of children’s thinking, hypothesis development, and the multiple relationships that are essential to every learning environment.

### **Focus Area: Designing the Learning Environment and Implementing Change Together**

The thoughtful and attractive physical design of a classroom promotes children’s learning and creates a sense of well-being, and supports the building of relationships. The classroom design also helps teachers meet their goals for children and encourages parent involvement, by communicating identity, culture, a sense of welcome, and a clear indication of the pedagogical values of the program.

### **Focus Area: Planning for Possibilities: Curriculum Design and Learning Standards**

With the Arizona State Standards for Early Childhood Programs as a reference, this course will provide students with a framework for designing curricula that meet children’s individual and group interests and needs.

### **Focus Area: The Studio Experience: Investigating and Inventing the Languages of Learning**

This course will focus on children’s creativity, the use of a wide variety of materials and the role of the teacher to deepen and enrich the learning experience.

### **Focus Area: Ethical Dimensions of Teaching and Learning in the U.S.**

Considering the rights of children, teachers and families and the responsibility of the educational environment to realize and promote these rights will be the focus of this course.

### **Focus Area: Relationships as Foundations for Teaching and Learning**

The best environment for children is the “one with the highest quantity and quality of relationships.” The work of Carlina Rinaldi be included in this study of children’s relationships within the classroom community.

### **Focus Area: Inclusion: Celebrating the Potential of All Children**

Recognizing and valuing the abilities and challenges that all children bring to the classroom will be the core of this study. Special Rights vs. Special Needs – we will consider reframing the perspective on inclusion and thus, the role of the teacher, the learning environment and the classroom community.

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