



ELED 592 – Embracing Families and Communities
April 10-11, 2025

Location: Watertown, SD

Instructor: Dr. Janessa Bixel, Ed.D.

Participants will register for credit at the time of conference registration. Participation log, summaries, Resource Walkabout, and action plan must be submitted by April 30, 2025, through D2L.

Course Description: Participants at the 2025 SD Early Childhood Education Conference will attend 15 hours of professional development related to the theme of *Embracing Families and Communities*. The hours must include the Resource Walkabout Activity and may include opening/closing/lunch sessions, general sessions, and keynote/plenary sessions for the remaining hours.

Participants will keep a participation log (conference attendance sheet) and write a one-paragraph summary of each session attended, with details outlined in the Evaluation section below.

Participants will also complete the Exhibitor Walkabout, available at the conference, that will require discussions with organizations set up as exhibitors.

In addition, graduate-level participants will write an action plan describing how at least 3 ideas or pieces of information from the conference will be implemented into their practice. The action plan should list the needed resources, detailed action steps, and the timeline for implementation of the plan.

Course Objectives:

- Develop a deeper understanding of topics related to Early Childhood Education
- Reflect on best practices in working with children and families
- Engage in dialogue on current research in the field of Early Childhood Education
- Understand resources related to early childhood education
- Articulate a plan for integrating new ideas and information into daily practice

Grading:

A	126 – 140 points
B	112– 125 points
C	98 – 111 points
D	84 – 97 points
F	Below 84 points

Evaluation:

1. **Participation Log*** (minimum 15 hours and must include Exhibitor Walkabout) – **10 points**
2. **Resource Walkabout*** (counts as 2.5 hours) – **30 points**
 - a. Use the provided worksheets to document the organization and person you spoke with at each booth.
 - b. For each organization you will also list:
 - i. Three key topics the organization covers
 - ii. How the information learned could be used in your professional practices as a teacher, program supervisor, support staff, etc.
3. **Session Summaries*** (one paragraph per session attended)) – **60 points**
 - a. For each paragraph, include the date, time, title, and presenter/speaker
 - i. Describe:
 1. Why you selected the session,
 2. List three key takeaways, and
 3. Explain why or why not you would recommend this session to someone else.
4. **Action Plan*** (describing the implementation of conference information)) – **40 points**
 - a. Describe how at least three (3) ideas or pieces of information from the conference will be implemented into your practice.
 - b. Be sure to list the following information for each idea:
 - i. the needed resources,
 - ii. detailed action steps, and
 - iii. the timeline for implementation of the plan.

**All work must be completed to get credit for this course*