

#### **School of Education**

Master of Teaching (Birth - 5/ Birth -12)

Early Childhood Subject TEAC7103
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE 3-5 Years

# A Guide to Placement Requirements for the Mentor Teacher and the Pre-service Teacher

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#### Attendance requirements:

Pre-Service Teachers are required to attend professional experience for 25 days

- All Orientation Days; and
- All days of Professional Experience (including EXPO).

Orientation Days are 6 hour days.

During the remainder of the Professional Experience placement Pre-Service Teachers are encouraged to work the same shift as setting staff. It is required that Pre-Service Teachers be at the setting for no less than 7.5 hours per day during the professional experience days, whether they are placed in a Child Care Centre or a Preschool. This <u>excludes a half</u> hour mandatory lunch break.

#### That means that you must be at the centre a minimum of 7.5 hours per day.

If a Pre-Service Teacher is absent for any reason she/he must:

- notify the setting;
- notify the WSU, School of Education, Professional Experience Office;
- write absent on the timesheet for any full day absence;
- complete the Absence from Professional Experience online form;
- provide documentation as to the reason for the absence;
- make up the missed day/s: please note any missed days must be made up with full days or half days, not additional hours;
- document the dates on which missed days were made up.

Mentor Teachers are required to sign the attendance record on a daily basis (should be downloaded by the Pre-service Teacher from the vUWS site) provide daily feedback and complete the Final Report document.

In order to receive a Satisfactory Grade for Professional Experience 3-5 Years, Pre-service Teachers must have completed all orientation days and Professional Experience days and have these verified by the Mentor Teacher. They must also receive a Satisfactory ssessment of their practical work from the Mentor Teacher and University Advisor in the Professional Experience Report

#### Introduction

Professional Experience is an integral part of the early childhood teacher education program at WSU. It provides pre-service teachers with authentic opportunities to put theory into practice in a supportive and encouraging environment.

Staff from the early childhood program work in partnership with Mentor Teachers and University Advisors during placement. Mentor Teachers play an important role in this partnership by mentoring pre-services teachers and supporting their growth as professionals in the workplace.

University Advisors also contribute to this community of practice as they meet regularly with pre-service teachers to help them to link theory to practice.

The Pre-service Teacher contributes to the partnership by bringing with them into their setting new knowledge that they can share and in so doing they add to the community of practice existing within the setting.

Professional Experience 3-5 years is the second and final Professional Experience placement for Pre-service Teachers completing the Master of Teaching Birth - 5 years. Some Pre-service Teachers will continue on to complete 1 final placement in a Primary School and graduate with a Master of Teaching (Birth - 12 Years).

Directors or Mentor Teachers will receive email information about the placement and a number of email attachments with information relevant to the professional experience placement. Attachments initially include the Professional Experience Handbook and the Teacher Pay Claim form. Later the Mentor Teacher will receive a copy of the Final Report for Professional Experience 3-5 Years.

Pre-service teachers receive a Feedback Book and Time sheet which they are responsible for printing out and sharing with the Mentor Teacher. Pre-service teachers are responsible to ensure that their Mentor Teacher completes their Feedback Book.

Pre-service teachers have a number of tasks to complete each week. A checklist is available on the following pages. The Pre-service teacher and the Mentor Teacher can each use the Checklist to help ensure that the Pre-service teacher is on track for successful completion of the placement and to make sure that they as the Mentor are completing requirements.

#### Pre-service Teacher

#### Before you commence your placement

- Complete the student profile and forward it to your setting. You may need to attend an
  induction before commencing placement. This is not included as part of your PE days for
  recording your attendance.
- Place a copy of your student profile into your Portfolio.
- Add your philosophy of teaching to your Portfolio.
- Begin to develop the professional learning goals that you would like to achieve during this placement. To do this you need to:
- i. Reflect on your previous placement and experience and identify your strengths and the areas that were identified as areas for improvement. You will have identified some of these yourself, others will have been identified by your Mentor Teacher or by your University Advisor.
- ii. Develop two professional learning goals based on your strengths and/ or areas for improvement.
- iii. Develop one further goal based on the Subject outcomes and the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers. See the link to the NESA website on vUWS to access the standards.
- iv. Document your goals in your Case Study Report and keep a hard copy in your portfolio

#### **Mentor Teacher**

#### Before the commencement of placement

Initially, Mentor Teachers can take the following steps to maximise Pre-service Teacher success and minimise the possibility of failure:

- prepare the children positively for the arrival of the Pre-service Teacher;
- read through the handbook to familiarise yourself with the aims and purpose of the placement
- ensure that there is an orientation plan for the Pre-service Teacher
- make sure you are prepared to spend some time each day with the Preservice Teacher

#### Orientation and beginning of observations (days 1-5)

#### Pre-service Teacher

- Discuss the requirements for PE and any assignments with your Mentor.
- Familiarise yourself with the setting and commence a Situational Analysis. (this will be part of your Case Study so you will use the format provided)
  - i. Analyse the implications for practice. Focus on how the particulars of this setting will affect what **you** do during PE.
  - ii. Briefly include the setting philosophy and the curriculum approaches and pedagogies, evident in practice, in your situational analysis.
- iii. Write a Reflection on how your philosophy relates to that of your setting. Note the commonalities and where are the differences? How will you accommodate to the differences? What negotiation may be required? This is part of your professional learning.
- iv. Write a Reflection on the way the learning environment is used- use of space, time, grouping, resources and some of the interests of the children- and how the learning environment is used to support children's investigation, critical thinking, pro-social behaviour and autonomy. This will be used to help you plan your learning environment and experiences later in the placement.
- v. Your documentation must be meaningful that is, you must be able to use the information to inform your planning.
- Develop one additional professional learning goal that relates to your understanding of this particular setting and the potentials and challenges it may present.
- Set up your child portfolios for the three –
  four focus children you have identified to be
  part of your Case Study which will
  demonstrate your effectiveness as a
  teacher. Include:
  - I. Informed consent from parent/s.
  - II. Any family information, surveys or jottings from staff about the child.
  - III. Initial observations of the child.

#### Mentor Teacher

Discuss with the Pre-service Teacher:

- communication methods and appropriate meeting times between Mentor Teacher and Pre- service Teacher;
- specific requirements of the placement;
- children who may be appropriate as focus children during the placement;
- setting and room details that are relevant for successful teaching;
- routines, expectations and responsibilities associated with Pre-service Teachers' roles need to be clear;
- any staff/student teacher policy or induction documents appropriate for a Preservice Teacher, including WH&S; and
- location of resources and requirements/processes for using particular resources

Sign the Pre-service Teacher's Time sheet daily

Complete 1-2 sets of written feedback on the Pre-service Teacher's

- 1. situational analysis
- 2. personal professional goals
- 3. initial observations

Complete Week 1 feedback sheet

Please see appendix 1 & 2 related to the feedback

#### Professional Experience days (Days 6-9) CPC 1 Fri 20<sup>th</sup> October

#### Pre-service Teacher

# This is the week when you commence planning and implementing experiences

- Negotiate regular meeting times with your Mentor Teacher so that you can:
  - share your observations of individual children and the group of children with your Mentor Teacher,
  - b) seek feedback about your planned project with children.
  - Provide your plans, for feedback by your Mentor Teacher, in advance of implementation.
  - d) Negotiate with your mentor which experiences she/he will observe and provided written feedback on ( expected 2 – 3 per week)
- Regularly evaluate progress toward meeting your goals.

This means thinking about how effective your strategies are in helping you to achieve your goals. It is not a description of what you have done each day.

- You must commence the implementation of 2
  planned experiences per day from day 6. You
  can use some of the planned experiences to
  gather information to inform your interestbased project with children.
- Add observations to your child portfolios. You need to ensure you are gathering meaningful information about funds of knowledge, dispositions and skills. You can write an observation at the end of each planned experience. You can also write an observation for anything that you observe that adds to your understanding of the child
- At the end of this 2 weeks develop a focus child summary/profile for each focus child.
   Include current funds of knowledge (in all the KLA's), skills, interests and learning dispositions and any particular directions for future learning and development. This will be included in your case study report.
- Immerse yourself in the routine and activities of the setting by:
  - I. Participating in routine times and where applicable managing these,
  - II. Taking small groups for stories, movement or music experiences (spontaneous)

#### Mentor Teacher

#### To support the Pre-service teacher:

- model quality teaching and learning practice;
- set regular times for communication and the provision of feedback
- understand & communicate to other staff that the Pre-service Teacher does not assume duty of care of children and that, consequently, overall supervisory responsibility is always exercised by the Mentor Teacher;

#### Review & discuss:

- Observations (overview of what learning, development, skills and dispositions, have been observed)
- Focus child summary/profile ( check that this is an accurate reflection of each focus child's funds of knowledge, skills and dispositions)
- Plans more than 1 learning intention in each plan., linked to Key Concept Areas/ learning domains
- Pre-service teacher's immersion in the room
- Ideas and topic for the project with children

#### Complete necessary documentation, including:

- 1-2 written feedback sheets
- timesheet

Please see Appendix 3 – 4 related to feedback

#### Professional Experience days (Days 10 - 14) CPC 2 will occur in the latter part of this week.

#### Pre-service Teacher

- Continue to negotiate a time to meet with your Mentor Teacher and continue to seek feedback as you have in the first part of your placement.
  - You will provide your plans, for feedback by your Mentor Teacher, in advance of implementation.
  - b) You will negotiate how far in advance of implementation the plans are required.
  - Negotiate with your mentor which experiences will be observed and provided with written feedback (expected 2-3 per week)
  - d) Continue to share your observations with your mentor
- Continue to reflect on your learning and growth as a professional. Use feedback from your Mentor Teacher, your own assessment of your developing pedagogy and practice and happenings in the room to inform your reflection. Document this in your Portfolio Section 2. You will use some of this reflection in your Case Study at Expo.
- Continue to evaluate the professional learning goals that you set.
- Plan and implement 2 experiences per day using the recommended planning format
- Begin to implement your project and if
  necessary build children's enthusiasm by
  adding a range of provocations. You must
  maintain documentation of the project in a
  way that it is accessible to children and
  families. This may be in terms of a wall
  display or the development of a book or
  some other format. This will allow children
  to revisit what they have been doing and
  discuss their learning as well as making
  visible the learning that has been taking
  place, for parents
- Begin discussions with your Mentor Teacher about your plans for the setting up the learning environment and the way that you will document the programme during the final 2 weeks of placement.
- Take more responsibility for routines and groups at various times of the day
- Continue to add to your child portfolios

#### Mentor teacher

#### To support the Pre-service teacher:

- model quality teaching and learning practice;
- set regular times for communication and the provision of feedback
- understanding that the Pre-service
   Teacher does not assume duty of care
   of children and that, consequently,
   overall supervision responsibility is always
   exercised by the Mentor Teacher;

#### Review & discuss:

- Observations adding regularly to focus children's portfolio (follows planning cycle)
- Plans learning intentions, differentiated teaching strategies
- Pre-service teacher's immersion in the room
- Implementation of the project with children
- Plans for documenting the program and planning the learning environment

#### Complete necessary documentation, including:

- 1-2 written feedback sheets
- Midway report
- Sign timesheet

Please see Appendix 5 midway report

#### Professional Experience days (days 15-19) Advisor visit in the latter part of this week

#### Pre-service Teacher

Drawing on your knowledge of the children in your room you will begin to plan the learning environment & programme for the room.

This means that you will:

- Consult with other educators in the room to find out what provisions they would like included in the learning environment (indoors and/or outdoors).
- Set up the learning environment either indoors or outdoors ( you can do this as part of a team you don't have to do all the work yourself)
- Document the planned programme (your experiences and those of the other Educators. Ensure you include learning intentions.)
- Ensure that you have more than 1 learning intention for each experience and that at least 1 learning intention relates to one of the Key Concept Areas.

**Document an assessment of the learning** and any follow ups for the various experiences at the end of the day/ during the day. You can do this in consultation with other educators.

Document an **evaluation of the learning environment**. Identify any changes to the spaces and resources to be used, groupings for children and any changes to routines.

You will **continue to implement your project** and to maintain documentation of the project in a way that it is accessible to children and families. This may be in terms of a wall display or the development of a book or some other format. This will allow children to revisit what they have been doing and discuss their learning as well as making visible the learning that has been taking place, for parents

You must plan and implement 2 experiences of your own each day. You do not need full experience plans for these experiences. Show them on the planning format you are using.

You will use this format for documenting the program for the room for days 15-25. You may experiment to find a format that works for you and shows the learning intentions for the experiences each day.

You will continue to take responsibility for some of the large and small group times and routines.

#### Mentor teacher

To support the Pre-service teacher:

- Allow the Pre-service Teacher to take increasing responsibility for the room;
- set regular times for communication and the provision of feedback
- understanding that the Pre-service Teacher does not assume duty of care of children and that, consequently, overall supervision responsibility is always exercised by the Mentor Teacher;

#### Review & discuss:

- the programming format and appropriateness of documentation
- the experiences planned by the PST
- Implementation of the project with children
- Ability to manage the room, routines, groups times and challenging behaviours

Complete necessary documentation, including:

- 1-2 written feedback sheets
- Comments ready for University Advisor visit
- time sheet

See Appendix 6 & 7

#### Professional Experience days (Days 20-25 (6 days)) Last of the Advisor visits early this week

#### Pre-service Teacher

During the final 6 days of your placement you should take responsibility for planning the indoor and outdoor learning environments including the documentation of the program for the room. This means that you will:

Consult with other educators in the room to find out what provisions they would like included and any learning focus that they may have.

Document the planning for each day and link the planning to outcomes from the Early Years
Learning Framework. You should include your own plans for your project and other experiences that you will manage as well as what other educators want.

Ensure that you have more than 1 learning intention for each experience and that at least 1 outcome relates to one of the Key Concept Area's

**Document an assessment of the learning** and any follow ups for the various experiences of the day at the end of each day /during the day. You can do this in consultation with other educators.

**Document an evaluation of the learning environment**. Identify any changes to the spaces and resources to be used, groupings for children and any changes to routines that will enhance outcomes for children.

You must plan and implement 2 experiences of your own each day.. Show them on the planning format you are using and make sure they are clearly identified as your own

You will record this planning using a planning format that you have developed or you may use the centre format

**Review the child summaries** ( the goals you set for each focus child)

**Develop a new child summary** for each focus child that documents the changes in funds of knowledge, skills and dispositions that have become evident during your time at the centre.

Include in your final summary for each child, links to demonstrate how the experiences you have provided and your teaching strategies has impacted on the child's learning.

**Review your project** with children and provide an overview of children's learning as a result of the project.

**Check** that your Mentor teacher has received the **Final Report** and has completed it before the final day. Your Mentor needs to provide you with the original of the final report.

#### Mentor Teacher

To support the Pre-service teacher:

- Allow the pre-service teacher to take increasing responsibility for the room;
- set regular times for communication and the provision of feedback
- understanding that the Pre-service Teacher does not assume duty of care of children and that, consequently, overall supervision responsibility is always exercised by the Mentor Teacher;

#### Review & discuss:

- the programming format and appropriateness of documentation
- the experiences planned by the PST
- Implementation of the project with children
- Growing capacity as a room leader

Complete necessary documentation, including:

- 2 written feedback sheets
- Final report
- timesheet

See Appendix 8

Professional Experience 3-5Years TEAC 7103	Guide to Placement
	Appendices
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### Appendix 1 Mentor Feedback sheet

The purpose of the following feedback sheet is to provide the Pre-service Teacher with feedback on their situational analysis, their own professional goals for placement and their initial observations of children.

Pre-service Teachers are required to demonstrate to the University that they meet the Australian Professional Teaching Standards at the graduate level in order to graduate from their course. Your written feedback helps them to support that claim. Your feedback also supports them to make appropriate changes to their professional practice

You may use one, 2 or more of this feedback sheet during week 1

Mentor Teacher Feedback sheet	
Name:	Date:
The Mentor Teacher will provide feedback to the Pre-serv	ice Teacher at least 3 times in each week
(twice only in week 1).	
Highlight any positive aspects of the Pre-service Teacher's	s practice, or aspects that the Mentor Teacher
feels are in need of improvement	
Focus of the feedback:	
□ Professionalism & ethical behavior(APST 7)	
□ Situational Analysis (APST 1)	
□ <b>Observations</b> (APST 1)	
□ Analysis of learning (APST 2, 3, 5)	
□ Planning (APST 2, 3)	
□ Professional goals & evaluation (APST 6)	
□ Interactions with children/staff (APST 4, 6)	
☐ Managing diverse behaviour (APST 4)	
Observations and Comments about the fo	cus area:
Fotom Ocale for Dry comics Teacher was	ndia a fa accas
Future Goals for Pre-service Teacher rega	raing tocus:
Mantay Tanahay Cignatura	Date
Mentor Teacher Signature:	Date:
Pre-Service teacher reflection on feedback	,
Pre-Service teacher reflection on reeubaci	<u>\</u>
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## Appendix 2

This feedback sheet is to be used at the end of week 1 to check that the Pre-service Teacher has completed all necessary tasks this week.

Mentor Teacher Feedback week 1					
Name:	Date:				
The Mentor Teacher will provide feedback to the This feedback sheet should be used to highlight need of improvement.		•		or Teache	r feels are in
Feedback in the first week should be linked to th Standards for Teachers.	e area Professional Knowle	dge and Professional Engage	ement outlined in the Austra	alian Profe	ssional
				Υ	N
Has the pre-service teacher completed a Situation	onal Analysis (APST 1.3, 1.4	4, 1.6)			
Has the pre-service teacher identified profession	al learning goals and strate	gies to achieve the goals ( AF	PST 6.1)?		
Has the pre-service teacher been professional a children in the setting (APST 7.1)?	nd ethical in their interaction	ns and behaviour with staff an	nd		
Does the pre-service teacher have an understan Wellbeing and the requirements of the Educatior	• •				
Does the pre-service teacher understand setting and the setting's media and social media policies	. ,	ng with families, privacy and c	confidentiality		
Has the Pre-service teacher obtained informed o	consent to work with focus o	hildren ( APST 7.1, 7.3)			
Comments relating to the above:					
Mentor signature:					

#### APPENDIX 3 Mentor Teacher Feedback sheet a.

The following feedback sheet is one of two feedback sheets to be used over the 4 remaining weeks of placement. This is intended as a quick and easy way to provide feedback and should be used once or perhaps twice each week.

# Mentor Teacher Feedback **PST Name:** Date: The Mentor Teacher will provide feedback to the Pre-service Teacher at least 3 times in each week. Two feedback formats are available for the mentor teacher to use. It is important that whichever feedback format is used, the Mentor teacher links to the Professional Teaching Standards. Highlight any positive aspects of the Pre-service Teacher's practice, or aspects that the Mentor Teacher feels are in need of improvement. Focus of the feedback: ☐ Professionalism & ethical behavior(APST 7) Implementation of Experiences □ **Situational Analysis** (APST 1) □ **Teaching strategies** (APST 1, 3) □ **Observations** (APST 1) □ Children's responses (APST 1, 3, 4) □ Analysis of learning (APST 2, 3, 5) □ Evaluation of the experience including resources, space, time, teaching strategies etc □ **Planning** (APST 2, 3) (APST 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) □ **Professional goals & evaluation** (APST 6) □ Planning of the program (APST 2, 3, 4) □ Interactions with children/staff (APST 4, 6) □ **Set up of the environment** (APST 3, 4) □ Managing diverse behaviour (APST 4) □ Other Observations and Comments about the focus area: **Future Goals for Pre-service Teacher regarding focus:** Mentor Teacher Signature: Date: Pre-Service teacher reflection on feedback

Date:

Pre-service Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_

#### APPENDIX 3 Mentor Teacher Feedback sheet a.

The following feedback sheet is the second of two feedback sheets to be used over the 4 remaining weeks of placement.

Pre-service teachers require some in depth feedback on their planning and implementation of experiences and they need to show that they have reflected on that planning.

Please use the following set of feedback sheets at least once every week to provide in depth Feedback for your pre-service teacher. The feedback needs to be linked to descriptors of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.

## Mentor Teacher Feedback sheet

Name:	Date:	
The Mentor Teacher	will provide feedback to the Pre-service Teacher at least	twice in each week during weeks 2 – 5 of the placement.
This feedback sheet	provides more detail to support the Pre-service teacher.	t should be used to highlight any positive aspects of the Pre-service Teacher's
knowledge of the chil	dren, understanding of key concepts to be taught and tea	aching practice, or aspects that the Mentor Teacher feels are in need of
improvement. To Be	used in conjunction with the Experience Plan.	
Feedback needs to b	e linked to the Professsional Knowledge and Professiona	al Practice outlined in the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.
	-	

Mentor Teacher comment on planning In weeks 2 & 3 this will relate to the experience plans. In weeks 4 &	§ 5 this will relate to discussion of planned experiences documented on the	program.
Pre-service Teacher knowledge of the children and knowledge of Pre-service teacher understanding of appropriate strategies to support What Star		
content (understanding of how to extend what children already know	learning, understanding of differentiated strategies for the diversity of learners,	descriptors will be
and can do).	capacity to develop a sequence of learning, ability to safely include ICT.	observed?

Observation of Pre-service Teacher			
Standard Descriptor	Teaching practice	Observation Strengths	Record of decision against the Standard Descriptor
Focus on standards 1, 2, 3, 4 5 & 6	What teaching and learning strategies did you observe aligned to the Standard Descriptors?  What teaching practice did you observe? How did this demonstrate the agreed Standard  Descriptors? You can comment here on things like appropriate & challenging learning goals, the structure of the experience, the sequencing of appropriate extensions of learning, effective communication, management of diverse behaviours, assessment of learning and ability to modify practice to better support learning.	Evaluate how well the teacher's practice demonstrated the agreed Standard Descriptors.	Observed / Partially observed / Not observed (select one) Other comments

Reflection			
Standard Descriptor	Pre-service Teacher's reflection on the experience	Mentor's feedback	
	What are your key reflections on your teaching practice? How did you demonstrate the agreed Standard Descriptors?	Comment/feedback on the agreed Standard Descriptors that were successfully demonstrated and observed.  What advice would you give to assist the further development of the agreed Standard Descriptors that were partially observed or not observed to improve teaching practice?	
Pre-service Te	eacher's signature:	Date:	
Mentor's signature:		Date:	

