Unit Six: Field Trip Experiences [CE-6]

Unit Six Essential Question: “How can an early childhood teacher plan a safe, age-appropriate, and effective learning experience through off site field trips and theme walks with young learners?”

Unit Six Description: This unit focuses on how young children gain better understanding of their community and the world as a whole through participating in new experiences that enhance previous learning. Course participants will explore the various reasons to take young learners outside of the classroom to promote learning and gain self-confidence. Participants will learn the importance of pre and post trip learning activities and learning objectives. Course will emphasize the importance of the need for careful planning to ensure the safety of these young learners. Participants will review and develop examples of the paperwork needed and used when planning a trip off site with young children.

Unit Six Rationale: Unit demonstrates how field trips can provide concrete learning experiences for young learners. In this unit course participants will gain understanding of how field trips help young learners gain firsthand knowledge of their community and the world.

Unit Six Lessons

1. Role of Field Trips in Early Childhood Learning
   Essential Question: “Why are field trips and theme walks an important part of the early childhood learning experience?”

2. Planning a Successful Field Trip
   Essential Question: “What important planning consideration are needed to ensure that a field trip meets desired learning outcomes and provides for the safety and security needs of young children?”

3. Safety Issues and Conditions for Field Trips
   Essential Question: “How should the early childhood educator assess and address any potential safety conditions or concerns that could impact the overall field trip experience for young children?”

4. Types and Purposes of Theme Walks
   Essential Question: “How can theme walks within the community assist young children better understand the world in which they and other people live?”

5. Learning After the Outing
   Essential Question: “Why is it important to provide follow-up learning experiences following a theme walk or field trip when working with young children?”