# . – Research and Training

## Prof. Lorena Pirola

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide students with basic knowledge, promote the acquisition of applied skills and begin the development of methodological skills for the critical reading of empirical research in educational and learning environments.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- know the topics, problems and characteristics of research;

- use the subject’s specific language;

- prepare survey tools to be used in educational contexts/services

 with particular reference to those aimed at children;

- critically analyse research experience.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course describes the relations between research and educational practice, and examines the fundamental structure of the research process. The theoretical analysis of the stages of the research methodology, such as the identification of the topic/problem, the reference theoretical framework, the development of a research plan, the choice of the tools, the analysis of the results achieved and a research dissemination plan, are supplemented with examples and presentations of real cases. Special attention will be paid to the analysis and building of the main research tools, (questionnaires, interviews, observational methods), also through the analysis of some research experiences. In the presentation of the stages of the research process, of the survey tools and in the related examples, ample space will be given to childhood services and contexts (equal to 3 ECTS credits).

***READING LIST***

Compulsory textbook:

K. Montalbetti - C. Lisimberti, *Ricerca e professionalità educativa. Metodi e strumenti,* Pensa, Lecce, 2015.

A textbook to choose from:

R. Viganò - A. Cattaneo (edited by), *La qualità dei progetti formativi. Una ricerca promossa dall’Ufficio Scolastico regionale per la Lombardia,* Vita e Pensiero, Milan, 2010.

Pugnaghi A., *Relazione educativa e organizzazione di contesto. Una ricerca nelle scuole d’infanzia della provincia di Modena*. Junior, Bergamo, 2015.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course involves the use of complementary teaching strategies: frontal lectures, participatory lessons, and guided practical activities; these, in particular, will offer students the possibility of experimenting with the construction of one or more survey instruments

The teaching material available on Blackboard is an integral part of the reading list.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

There will be an oral examination designed to verify students’ basic knowledge and initial research methodology skills: questions will be on course content, exercises and critical analysis of research. Assessment will be based on: clarity of presentation, use of subject language, knowledge of fundamental concepts and their application, critical consideration.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course.

Students are invited to regularly check the IT tools used for the course (Blackboard), for notices and updates.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.