**-. Early years pedagogy and the 0-6 integrated system**

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

Educational services for children are undergoing important changes and innovations at a regulatory and institutional level. New scenarios are conceived and designed for the education and care of boys and girls, with a view to building an integrated system of childcare services, in view of overcoming the so-called “split system” relating to services dedicated to children aged 0-3 years and 3-6 years.

The course aims to address the theme of the 0-6 integrated system with a view to educational continuity, identifying its constituent dimensions, transversal devices, and peculiarities of the two 0-3- and 3-6-years age groups of children. The course also aims to offer students knowledge and tools to orient themselves in the culture of childhood and to refine knowledge and skills regarding the coordination of educational services for the 0-6 age group.

On a regulatory level, particular attention will be paid to some recent national documents aimed at strengthening the 0-6 system, alongside with the in-depth analysis of themes related to *speech* and questions on the meanings *that emerge spontaneously in children, and which are often overlooked by adults*. What devices qualify an educational experience capable of putting the child, their resources and subjectivity at the centre?

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

- know the main cultural and regulatory references of the current debate on *Early Childhood Education and Care* (ECEC) and the construction of a 0-6 curriculum;

- know the foundations of an 0-6 integrated training system within the framework of the most recent educational policies for childhood;

- prefigure the use of the main pedagogical devices and methodological tools for the creation of 0-6 educational continuity;

- competently consider the quality of childcare services which is achieved through four fundamental tools of educational work: observation, planning, documentation and evaluation;

- understand and enhance the functions of the word and the search for meaning as the essence of the childhood educational experience.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The main topics addressed during the lessons will be the following:

- the integrated system of educational services for children aged 0-6;

- 0-6 educational continuity in the framework of national and European policies;

- pedagogical foundations and key dimensions of the 0-6 curriculum;

- educational quality in children's services: indicators;

- the value of the word and the search for meaning in the development and learning processes of boys and girls.

***READING LIST***

# - L. Balduzzi, *Pronti per cosa? Innovare i servizi e la scuola dell’infanzia a partire dalle pratiche di continuità educativa*, Angeli, Milan, 2021.

- S. Demozzi, *La grande domanda. Quando l’infanzia interroga l’esistenza*, Scholè, Morcelliana, Brescia, 2022.

- E. Musi, *Dire il mondo. Una ricerca fenomenologica sul valore educativo delle parole*, Armando, Rome, 2022.

- Ministero dell’Istruzione, *Linee pedagogiche per il sistema integrato “zerosei”* (basic document), 2021.

- Ministero dell’Istruzione, *Orientamenti nazionali per i servizi educativi per l’infanzia*, 2022.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lessons. The lessons include the active involvement of the students, through view sharing and discussion, the possible testimony of professionals from educational services and, provided that all the students enrolled in the course can participate, the visit to some particularly interesting and innovative children's services. The identification of a childcare service to be documented and presented in class will also be required.

The materials used during the lessons will be made available to students via the Blackboard platform.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be able to take an interim test focussed on the contents covered in the first semester, which will take place on a date to be defined in January-February. The methods, the type and timing of the interim test will be published on the teacher's web page and on the Blackboard platform. The exam will be completed in the official exam sessions starting from the summer session of June-July. The final mark will be the result of the average of the marks obtained in the interim and final tests.

During the exam, the following aspects will be verified: knowledge of the topics covered during lectures and the content of the textbooks included in the reading list; ability to argue the topics covered on the basis of adequate scientific references and with appropriate language; aptitude for critical and reflective re-elaboration.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Since this is a specialised course, students are expected to master the theoretical and methodological foundations of pedagogy and educational work.

Information on office hours available on the teacher's personal page at <http://docenti.unicatt.it/>.