Important Points for IDS-TP Early Childhood Concentration (IDS-TP ECHL)

IDS-TP ECHL is the undergraduate portion of a 4+1 BS/MS program offered by the College of Arts and Letters in partnership with the Darden College of Education that offers initial licensure to teach Pk-3 at the graduate level. This IDS-TP concentration is designed for teacher candidates who wish to work with young children in a variety of learning environments from birth through grade 3, focusing on preschool through third grade.

The IDS-TP ECHL concentration:

- Focuses on contemporary images of the child that reflects the multiplicities of children and childhoods so that they are positioned as rich, competent, and complex individuals.
- Offers coursework that attends to socially-just educative practices that encourage responsive approaches to teaching and learning that meet the needs of young children from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds.
- Teaches students to design curriculum in early language and literacy, experiential science and mathematics, and creative approaches to the arts and social studies which recognize the many modalities by which children learn, express, and communicate.

The IDS-TP ECHL concentration includes:

- Coursework that features frequent and meaningful field experiences which are viewed as central to learning to work with young children and families.
- Field placements that will begin in infant and toddler settings and build towards primary grades.
- Field placements that will take place at ODU’s Children’s Learning and Research Centers, various community settings, and in public schools.
- Field placements within coursework that are designed in a Teacher-Learning Community Model which emphasizes collaboration between students, university faculty, and supervising teachers.
- Student teaching at the graduate level in a residency model, Monday through Thursday, August through June, with graduate coursework on Fridays while engaged in this student teaching residency.

The IDS-TP ECHL concentration offers:

- Numerous future career opportunities since early childhood care and education is a growing and valued component of Virginia’s educational landscape. The demand for highly-trained early childhood educators is steadily increasing across the state and nation due to the increased recognition of the important role of the early childhood years for children’s later development and learning.

For further information, please contact your academic advisor or the Interdisciplinary Studies, Teacher Preparation Program in the College of Arts and Letters at Old Dominion University by calling 757-683-4044.