Meeting to discuss ELE 404 field placements  
5-6-03  
Attending: Dr. Janice Hooks, Janice Vaughn, Dr. Alesa Walker, Dr. Janis Murphy, Dr. Jo Robertson

Janice Vaughn shared that teachers at Murray Elementary who had allowed ELE 404 students field experiences were dissatisfied with the students planning and organization. Janice suggested that an evaluation form be developed to allow for teacher feedback. This would allow faculty to receive feedback about their students and encourage students to feel more accountable for their teaching experiences in ELE 404.

Janice Hooks related concerns expressed by IECE students about their readiness for student teaching in kindergarten. Janis Murphy described the field experience currently being used for her section of ELE 404 which included preschool and head start. Jo Robertson added that she felt IECE students needed more field experiences in kindergarten as they participate in preschool field experiences in several of their other early childhood courses. She raised concern about how prepared IECE students are to teach reading in kindergarten. Janice Hooks said that students taking the language arts course focus on skills for teaching early reading. It is also hoped that the proposed new course in early literacy will strengthen skills of IECE students. Jo Robertson will take a look at the objectives for the new course to see if emphasis in early reading activities needs to be strengthened.

The group discussed providing field experiences in kindergarten for IECE students and field experiences for elementary majors in K-3 classrooms. Possible elementary schools were discussed as well as the number of required field hours for the course (6 hours).

Janice Vaughn felt she would be able to place the students in a K or K-3 classroom for the required 6 hours of teaching. Tentatively placements will begin either the first week in November or last week in October and will last for a 3 week period of time.

Janis Murphy asked that a list of themes used by the elementary schools where the students will be placed for field experiences be given to the ELE 404 instructors within the next week. She suggested students be contacted and encouraged to choose a theme and do some research on resources during the summer. She would like students to be able to identify the topic for their thematic unit within the first week of class Fall, 03. Janice Vaughn will contact teachers at the various elementary schools for a list of thematic topics and share these with Dr. Niffenegger and Dr. Murphy. A letter will be sent to students enrolled in sections 01 or 02 explaining that they need to choose a thematic topic and email their choice to their instructor.
Janice Vaugh will need to know student schedules for placing students enrolled in the 4:00 p.m. section of the course and for placing IECE students in kindergarten in those cases where the 12:30 class time is not in sync with the kindergarten schedule (ie Murray Elementary kindergarten children have recess at 12:30). A student information sheet will be including in the mailing to students asking them to email or mail back their schedules to Janice Vaughn. Dr. Niffenegger and Dr. Murphy will meet to develop an evaluation form for supervising teachers that will be piloted in the fall.

Since field experiences will occur late in the semester, course instructors will have time to work with students to approve their progress on thematic units and KTIP lesson plans prior to students teaching the activities. This will help reduce the problem of students not being organized and prepared to teach. Janis Murphy described a system she uses that pairs 2 student buddies who critique each others progress as a good strategy to help students stay on task.

Jo Robertson asked about getting this information to 2 + 2 faculty teaching ELE 404 who might have IECE students in their sections. Janice Hooks and Janice Vaughn felt this could be done during adjunct summer orientation.