



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN  

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School and Community Experiences

**Guidelines for Early Field Experience  
EDPR 250 EC**

School and Community Experiences  
120 Education  
Jay Mann, Director

You are about to begin your first field experience in a classroom setting where you will observe and work with children and a cooperating teacher. The purposes of this practicum are to give you opportunities to:

- Learn about infants and toddlers
- Observe and interact with children
- Observe and teach with the cooperating teacher
- Gain insights about your future as a teacher

Remember school settings have rules and procedures. You are a guest in the schools and should abide by these. The following guidelines are written to assist you in making an easy adjustment in your cooperating school.

**Expectations for your Placement**

1. Appropriate dress is expected in your classroom assignment. You are an adult role model at this site and should dress appropriately for a professional person, e.g., no t-shirts with inappropriate wording or graphics.
2. Demonstrate professional behaviors in your speech and attitudes with respect to confidential information, relationships with colleagues and students, and the practices of educational system in which you are working.
3. Be punctual. If you are unable to arrive on time, be courteous and contact the school as soon as possible, preferably before your scheduled arrival time. Keep in mind people who work in schools are busy people and may have to adjust plans as a consequence of your absence.
4. Interact with the children as much as possible with the permission of the cooperating teacher. Ask the cooperating teacher in which activities you may assist. Demonstrate initiative, enthusiasm, and work ethics.

**At the end of the semester, you must have your time sheet completed and signed by the cooperating teacher. You must have a minimum of 24 hours documented. Return the signed time sheet and a minimum of two open-ended observation forms, completed by your cooperating teacher, to School and Community Experiences, 120 Education. Failure to complete 24 hours of practicum will result in an unsatisfactory grade for EDPR 250.**