

Rhode Island College
Early Childhood Education Undergraduate Program

Section IV Evidence for Meeting Standards
Assessment 2 – Praxis II: Education of Young Children Exam (0021)

1. A brief description of the assessment:

The Praxis II: Education of Young Children Exam (0021) is intended primarily for prospective teachers of young children (birth to age eight). It is based on a teaching approach that emphasizes the active involvement of young children in a variety of play and child-centered activities that provide opportunities for choices, decision-making, and discovery. The test is designed to assess the examinee's knowledge about pedagogy and content, the relationship of theory to practice, and how theory can be applied in the educational setting. Also included are multicultural influences; diversity; variations in development, including atypical development; and how they affect children's development and learning. Each of the six constructed-response questions focus on one of the following areas: diversity, the learning environment, relationships with families, professionalism, assessment, curriculum, and instruction (<http://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/Praxis/taag/0021/glance.htm>)

2. A description of how this assessment specifically aligns with the standards:

This recognized standardized exam specifically aligns with NAEYC Standards 4a, 4b, 4c, and 4d. The exam assesses whether the teacher candidates have the necessary knowledge and skills to be an effective early childhood teacher and ensure that their students learn. The exam specifically addresses standard 4a by asking the candidates to provide a response to a question related to knowledge about relationships with families. Standard 4b is addressed because the exam assesses the candidates' knowledge about pedagogy, the relationship of theory to practice, and how theory is applied in the educational setting. Standard 4c is addressed specifically by assessing the candidates' knowledge of content. Finally Standard 4d is addressed in the exam by asking the candidate to respond to questions that focus on curriculum and instruction. Sample exam questions are provided.

Standard 4a: *Chris is a child with HIV/AIDS who is in your class. Part A. Based on practice that is ethical as well as professionally and legally prudent, what are your responsibilities to Chris and his family as a teacher? Part B. List three resources that you could use to help you to learn how best to handle the issues specific to having a child with HIV/AIDS in the classroom. Describe the information each resource could provide.*

Standard 4b: *Which of the following teacher actions would best supplement the development of a literacy-rich environment in the early elementary classroom? A) Reviewing catalogs about commercially developed language arts curriculum aligned with national standards B) Creating attractive and colorful teacher-made bulletin boards for students to enjoy C) Giving students work sheets on phonics, decoding, and word recognition skills D) Providing students with a variety of reading and writing materials and assignments.*

Standard 4c: *After using the words "tooth" and "teeth" correctly, some children begin saying "tooths" and "teeths." This usage results from A) paralinguage B) language production difficulty C) overgeneralization D) poor listening skills*

Standard 4d: *You are planning an integrated unit on plants and seeds for the diverse learners in your first-grade class. Part A. Describe one developmentally appropriate, plant-related activity that integrates the following disciplines: Science, Language arts, Mathematics. Part B. Describe the conceptual understanding the activity will address in each content area.*

3. A brief analysis of the data findings:

Because teacher candidates must pass the Praxis II: Education of Young Children Exam (0021) prior to student teaching only the scores for the Spring of 2009 have been reported. This means that the current teacher candidates are still in their coursework and have not yet taken the exam. The reported scores for the Spring of 2009 indicate that 5 out of the 6 scores received a passing score from 172 to 195. A passing score must be 171 or higher.

4. An interpretation of how that data provides evidence for meeting standards:

Teacher candidates that do not pass the Praxis II: Education of Young Children Exam (0021) do not move on to the student teaching phase of the Early Childhood Program. By using this recognized exam as one of the requirements for student teaching, the Early Childhood Program ensures that teacher candidates are prepared for the rigors of teaching young children and that they possess the necessary knowledge and skills to teach effectively and support young children's learning. The data from the reported scores indicates that 83% of the teacher candidates were able to successfully demonstrate their knowledge about teaching and learning. Specifically a passing score provides evidence that teacher candidates were able to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding about teaching and learning in terms of connecting with children and families, using developmentally effective approaches, understanding content knowledge in early education, building meaningful curriculum through multiple-choice questions and constructed-response questions.

5. Attachment of assessment documentation:

*Note the exam can be viewed by visiting ETS.org