

Rubric for Admissions Essay for MS Inclusive Early Childhood Education and Intervention

Describe your critical thinking and beliefs about the following issues in early childhood education:

- **The need for high expectations in the learning setting while respecting the individual differences of all learners.**
- **The importance of forming alliances with families in the education process.**
- **Discussion of professionalism and ethical standards for the teacher of young children.**

This rubric quantifies the degree to which the applicant demonstrates critical thinking and reflection on the above topics.

Essay 1: The need for high expectations in the learning setting while respecting individual differences of all learners.

The applicant included evidence of critical thinking and reflection on the importance of having high expectations and respecting individual differences of all learners.

Rubric:

Content	Standard not met 1	Standard partially met 2	Standard met 3	Score
Statement demonstrates expectations that all children can learn and respect for all learners.	Content minimally addresses expectations that all children can learn and respect for all learners.	Content generally addresses expectations that all children can learn and respect for all learners.	Content fully expresses and demonstrates reflection and critical thinking about high expectations that all children can learn and respect for all learners.	
Examples of DAP response to individual differences (e.g. adaptations, modifications)	No examples given	Offers one or two examples	Offers three or more examples and demonstrates reflection and critical thinking about responding to individual differences	

Total score for demonstrating high expectations in the learning setting while respecting individual differences of all learners _____

Essay 2: **The importance of forming alliances with families in the education process.**

The applicant included evidence of critical thinking and reflection on the importance of including families in all aspects of their children’s education.

Rubric:

Content	Standard not met 1	Standard partially met 2	Standard met 3	Score
Rationale for including families in the education process	Vague statement about the importance of including families. Critical thinking and reflection are absent.	Some references to families, but no clear rationale as to the importance of including them in the education of children. Statements are general and rather vague.	Clear rationale with support. Evidence of reflection and critical thinking about the importance of families.	
Examples of how the applicant would form alliances with families.	At the most, one example is given.	Two or more examples are given, but evidence is weak.	Examples are clearly stated and writing reflects reflection and critical thinking.	

Total score for forming alliances with families _____

Essay 3: Discussion of professionalism and ethical standards for the teacher of young children.

Content	Standard not met 1	Standard partially met 2	Standard met 3	Score
Ethical standards for the classroom teacher	Topic is not addressed or is very vague	Candidate acknowledges the importance of ethical standards but provides no examples	Candidate identifies the necessity for and the responsibilities of ethical standards in the educational setting. Specific examples of situations demonstrating the need for ethical standards are included.	
Professionalism in the teaching profession	Topic is not addressed or is unclear	Candidate does not identify organizations nor mentions any benefits of membership. No knowledge of training opportunities are included	Candidate identifies more than one professional organization pertinent to his or her teaching level or area of expertise. Identifies sources of professional development in conferences, meetings, and other training. Identifies how membership in that organization can benefit his or her practice.	

Total score for professionalism and ethical standards _____

Content	Standard not met 1	Standard partially met 2	Standard met 3	Score
Grammar, punctuation, spelling, fluent writing, organization, etc.	Five errors or more, not complete sentences, not well written or organized	Three to four errors, fair writing skills and organization of thoughts	Grammar, punctuation, spelling, writing skills, and organization at appropriate graduation level	

Total score for grammar, punctuation, spelling, writing, and organization _____