



City of Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL)

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HighScope Preschool Curriculum Course

DEEL will offer a four-week Preschool Curriculum Course (PCC) that prepares teachers and caregivers to implement the HighScope approach in their programs. The PCC consists of 20 six-hour days. The approach includes active learning, practice and reflection, and self-study methods. Trainings will be scheduled to allow teachers sufficient time to practice what they have learned in their own classrooms. The PCC covers five major topics:

- Active Learning
- Adult-Child Interaction
- Learning Environment
- Daily Routine
- Assessment

PCC participants will be assigned to a small group to discuss implementation and challenges before moving on to new material. They will also complete reading assignments and writing activities to reflect upon what they have learned. Based on stakeholder input and the needs of Seattle students, the PCC will include training topics on dual language learning, culturally responsive teaching, math, and science.

Teacher Certification

HighScope teacher certification remains in effect for a period of three years. After this time, individuals have the option of recertifying by repeating the initial certification process.

Teacher/Program Supports

The following supports will be offered to allow teachers to participate in and benefit from the PCC course.

Substitute teacher support. DEEL will provide funding to offset the cost of substitute teachers so that teachers can be released and paid during training.

MERIT/STARS/Clock Hours credit. Teachers will receive credit for completion of coursework.

MERIT (Washington's Managed Education and Registry Information Tool) and STARS (State Training and Registry System) are systems for documenting and recognizing the professional achievements of educators in early care and school-age educators.

Academic coursework/child development associate teacher. Credit towards a degree for HighScope coursework is currently in development in Washington state.

Annual completion and retention bonuses. Eligible teachers will receive a \$1,000 bonus when they complete the coursework and become certified. They will receive an additional \$500 for each year that they stay at the same school or program. Another \$500 will be available following recertification in year three. Bonuses will be available through at least the 2018–19 school year—the final school year for the current Families and Education Levy.

Translation/interpretation services. To ensure that all interested teachers can participate, services will be available in multiple languages.



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Preschool Curriculum Course Schedule and Description

120 Contact Hours plus Assignments

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Day 1	Introduction to HighScope and the Lead Teacher Training Project (LTTP) Active Learning	Implementation Review Introduction to the HighScope Daily Routine	Implementation Review HighScope Key Developmental Indicators — Part One	Movement and Music
Day 2	Thinking and Reasoning Introduction to the HighScope Key Developmental Indicators	Daily Routine: Plan-Do-Review Sequence	HighScope Key Developmental Indicators — Part Two	Movement and Music
Day 3	Indoor Learning Environment	Daily Routine: Small-Group Times	HighScope Key Developmental Indicators — Part Three Encouragement vs. Praise	Implementation Review Child Assessment: <i>HighScope Child Observation Record (COR)</i> — Part One
Day 4	Adult-Child Interaction Strategies	Daily Routine: Large-Group Times	Problem-Solving Approach to Conflict — Part One	Child Assessment: <i>HighScope Child Observation Record (COR)</i> — Part Two Daily Team Planning
Day 5	Observation and Anecdotal Record Keeping Elements of Quality	Program Assessment: <i>HighScope Program Quality Assessment (PQA)</i>	Problem-Solving Approach to Conflict — Part Two	Working With Parents HighScope Review: Questions and Answers

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Purpose and Participants

The four-week Preschool Curriculum Course (PCC) prepares teachers and caregivers to implement the HighScope educational approach in their early childhood programs. Carefully selected training materials focus on child development, developmentally appropriate practice, and the participants' own educational development.

Outcomes and Benefits

The training program covers the five major topics in the HighScope Wheel of Learning: Active Learning, Adult-Child Interaction, Learning Environment, Daily Routine, and Assessment.

The training program uses active participation and study to engage participants in the learning process and help them become more effective teachers.

Participants who complete the program are qualified to implement the HighScope educational approach in their programs and assess how it enhances children's development. They receive certificates of participation and are encouraged to apply for HighScope teacher certification through the International HighScope Registry.

Participants who complete the 20 days (120 hours) of training and all of the study assignments receive 12 Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

PCC teachers who want to move into supervisory and training roles at their agencies can enroll in the HighScope Training of Trainers (ToT) course to qualify to provide training to other staff.

The PCC plus the ToT combines training in the educational model with the development of skills to train adults. Participants who meet the requirements for both become HighScope certified trainers with an endorsement in preschool.

Key Features

Training sessions. The PCC is composed of 20 six-hour days of instruction distributed over four five-day weeks. Training sessions are usually conducted in a single central location for groups of 20–40 participants. The training weeks are separated by three to four weeks to enable teachers to practice what they have learned.

Ongoing participation. Participants are actively involved in group work during the training weeks. At the beginning of each training week, the consultant discusses implementation issues and concerns that teachers faced during the intervening weeks before moving on to new material. Together they develop strategies for enhancing implementation at their site.

Training assignments. To actively study the material covered, participants complete reading and reflective writing assignments during the training sessions and in the weeks between sessions. These assignments help them to learn the central components of the curriculum presented in the written and audio-visual materials and to practice implementing them through activities in their own classrooms.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for teachers to enroll in the PCC.

Teachers in diverse positions and at varying levels of experience may participate in the PCC. Evaluation has shown that the PCC can effectively improve teaching skills of those with college degrees as well as those with high school diplomas. Experienced teachers who participate in the PCC

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not only improve their own teaching skills but are also in a position to serve as mentors for novice teachers.

Roles and Responsibilities of Participants

Teachers are expected to attend all training sessions and complete all assignments.

To become certified, teachers must demonstrate a high level of curriculum implementation and child observation and assessment skills in their own classroom settings.

Feedback and Evaluation Procedures

PCC participants receive extensive feedback from consultants on their curriculum implementation and assignments but they are not formally evaluated and do not receive course grades. However, those who complete the PCC and choose to continue their training with the ToT must demonstrate their mastery of the PCC content and fulfill the trainer certification requirements. These requirements and the grading system are described in the ToT prospectus.

During the PCC, the HighScope consultant provides guidance and feedback to participants in the following areas:

Understanding the HighScope educational approach. Consultant-led workshops and assigned readings from HighScope's preschool manual, *Educating Young Children: Active Learning Practices for Preschool and Child Care Programs* by Mary Hohmann and David P. Weikart, along with other resources, provide participants with ample opportunity to learn about and study the HighScope Curriculum. With guidance from the consultant, participants work in teams and individually to understand the curriculum components and their relationship to child development theory and practice.

Assessing child development. Participants learn how to observe children and take objective anecdotal notes using the *HighScope Key Development Indicator Note Forms*. They practice using these notes to complete the *HighScope Child Observation Record (COR)*. The consultant reviews these notes and provides feedback to participants on the objectivity of their anecdotal notes and the accuracy of their completed COR ratings.

Assessing program quality. Participants use the *HighScope Program Quality Assessment (PQA)* to learn about the elements of program quality. With guidance and feedback from the consultant, participants practice using the PQA to evaluate HighScope's central components: learning environment, daily routine, adult-child interaction, and assessment.

Implementing the HighScope educational approach. In the weeks between training sessions, participants practice using the HighScope educational approach in their own classrooms or in a cooperating classroom at their home agency. Participants implement the principles of the approach by arranging and labeling the learning environment, establishing a consistent daily routine that includes the plan-do-review sequence and small- and large-group times, and engaging in supportive adult-child interactions that enhance and extend children's learning.

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Teacher Certification

Teachers who complete the PCC are encouraged to apply for teacher certification. The certification process, conducted by the International HighScope Registry, recognizes teachers whose practices demonstrate a high degree of knowledge about child development and the application of the HighScope educational approach. To be certified, teachers must demonstrate their competence in their own classrooms in two ways:

Program implementation. Teachers must be observed and rated by a certified teacher-trainer using the *HighScope Program Quality Assessment (PQA) Instrument*. To be certified, a teacher must achieve a rating of 4 or above (out of 5) on all the certification scales and an average rating of at least 4.5 on the PQA.

Child assessment. Teachers must use the *HighScope Child Observation Record (COR)* to observe and rate two children for a period of three months, and submit a full set of anecdotal notes and the completed COR assessment for both children. (In lieu of the COR, programs may use Teaching Strategies Gold.)

If all of the teachers (those with full teaching responsibilities, not including assistants) at a single location in an early childhood agency are certified by the International HighScope Registry, the agency can apply for program certification for that location. The agency must submit documentation that its policies and practices support the implementation of the HighScope educational approach.

Course Content

The PCC consists of 20 days (120 contact hours) of training workshops and seminars distributed over four, week-long courses. One or two topics are addressed each day. Some topics require two or more sessions. Participants are expected to prepare themselves for each topic by studying the relevant materials and completing the assignments.

Frequently Asked Questions

How much does it cost for non-city providers to participate in the PCC?

The average cost for the HighScope PCC is \$3,900 per person; it could be less depending on the number of enrollees.

One-day training institutes featuring HighScope will be free, with registration on a first-come, first-served basis for up to 300 participants.

On-site coaching cost (\$8,000/classroom for a minimum cohort of 8 classrooms).

The average cost for the Introduction to HighScope approach is approximately \$1,170 per provider.

What other curricula or approaches are comparable to HighScope?

None are directly comparable; however, other curricula that follow the constructivist theory of learning include Creative Curriculum, and the Montessori, and Reggio Emilio approaches.