

Professional Development Course Catalog

5 Discourse Moves
to Strengthen
Child-Teacher
Interactions



Intro

This Course Catalog encompasses the Professional Development offerings from MarcoPolo Learning designed for early childhood educators. This includes a detailed description of our approach to professional development, course descriptions, instructional format, course priorities, weekly goals, and learning outcomes.

If you have any questions or would like to inquire about customization options, please contact Justin Hsu, CEO of MarcoPolo Learning, by email at justin@marcopololearning.com.

About Us

Founded in 2013, MarcoPolo Learning is an award-winning edtech company focused on advancing early childhood education through innovative solutions that are driven by research and supported by best-in-class service.

MarcoPolo's solutions are used in thousands of public and private schools across North America.

MarcoPolo Learning is headquartered at 115 Broadway, Floor 5, New York, NY 10006 with support offices located in Tampa, San Francisco and London (UK).

Professional Development Series for Early Childhood Educators

We take an innovative two-pronged approach to support early childhood educators:

Learn about It

The first part is a series of direct professional development courses offered to educators through a combination of live and on-demand training sessions, engaging activities, and community reflection. Our training plan will introduce topics to educators using best practices in early childhood professional development, offering educators meaningful and practical instruction that can be implemented into their classrooms.

- We provide daily tooltips and weekly check-ins to allow educators to apply new learning with feedback as they begin to implement practices.
- Participants actively engage on a discussion board forum to allow for community building, sharing, and reflection on the practices the educators have implemented.

Put into Practice

The second part of this approach will leverage digital educator-facing resources that enhance their curriculum, and child-facing resources to support family engagement. These resources are created to reinforce and translate the learning outcomes from the Professional Development series into practical application. These resources will also provide ongoing, embedded support for educators in facilitating ways for them to learn to ask purposeful questions, respond to children, engage with families, and differentiate instruction for diverse learners.

Professional Development Courses	Hours
Course 1: Developmentally Appropriate Ways to Boost Kindergarten Readiness (Part 1, Literacy)	4
Course 2: Developmentally Appropriate Ways to Boost Kindergarten Readiness (Part 2, Math & Fostering Independence)	4
Course 3: Social Emotional Development: Teaching Self-Management Tools	4
Course 4: 5 Discourse Moves to Strengthen Child-Teacher Interactions	4

Supporting Emotional Development and Addressing Challenging Behaviors	Hours
<i>These courses are developed by experts in the field of Social-Emotional Development and focus on different aspects of supporting children, teachers, and caregivers in managing challenging behaviors. Each course offers research-based practices, valuable insights, and practical tools for everyday use.</i>	
Course 5: Trauma-Informed Care: What You Need to Know and How It Fits Into Your Everyday Practices	4
Course 6: Effective Partnerships: Working with Caregivers to Address Challenging Behavior	4
Course 7: Managing Challenging Behaviors: Effective Strategies for Guiding and Supporting Children	4
Course 8: Building Relationships: Teacher-Child and Teacher-Caregiver Connections to Reduce Challenging Behaviors	4
Course 9: Differentiating Instruction: What It Means and How It Helps Address Challenging Behavior	4

Professional Development Courses

MarcoPolo Learning's Professional Development courses are developed by highly experienced early childhood experts in the interest of supporting early childhood curricula, elevating classroom interactions, and strengthening educator practices. Our course topics, resources, and materials were also envisioned using data-driven principles and valuable feedback from education leaders and educators. Throughout the courses, vital concepts are addressed that support frequent, quality interactions aligned with the CLASS framework.

The priorities of all our Professional Development courses are as follows:

- To encourage educators to build the connection between the content presented and their own classroom practices.
- For educators to implement best practices into their daily classroom structures and instruction.
- For educators to cultivate their existing strengths by sharing their practices within their professional community.

The weekly goals during each Professional Development course are as follows:

- Participate in PD sessions.
- Implement new learning in classroom routines and structures.
- Share reflections with the PD community.

To optimize learning, the **learning outcomes** of educators will be **assessed** throughout each Professional Development course. Educators will be assessed by using multiple-choice questions for a quick evaluation of basic knowledge. Educators will also answer open-ended questions that allow them to share their knowledge and give examples of implementation. The questions are reviewed by our PD facilitators and educators are given feedback throughout the process.

Course Schedule

Each course is broken down as follows to equate to 4 hours per course

- 2 hours: Live virtual (or on-demand recordings).
- 1 hour: 4 short daily videos, quizzes, practical application assignments, surveys, and a blog with practical teaching tooltips.
- 1 hour: Optional office hours, practical application in the classroom, and community reflection via virtual discussion board.

** Note: participants have 1 month to complete the coursework once they begin*

On-Demand courses are available year round.

Live virtual courses are offered twice per month and are first come, first served.

Each PD course is described below

Developmentally Appropriate Ways to Boost Kindergarten Readiness: Part 1, Integrating Literacy into Daily Classroom Practices

Description: Kindergarten readiness is a ubiquitous term, but what does it really mean? Attendees will analyze and define the term and learn about pivotal research connected to school readiness. Educators will learn how to set children up for success in kindergarten and prepare them to show their strengths on kindergarten readiness assessments, while still preserving a developmentally appropriate and playful inquiry-based environment. Examine how elements of the early literacy assessments can be taught or reinforced through formal and informal learning opportunities throughout the school day. This session will focus specifically on early literacy skills.

Learning Outcomes:

- Educators will begin to evaluate developmentally appropriate practices to teach foundational literacy skills.
- Educators will assess their current practices and classroom structures for opportunities to elevate kindergarten readiness.

Format: Virtual Instruction, short videos with teaching tooltips, quizzes, emails/blogs, check-ins, virtual shares and reflections. On-Demand format is also available.

Length: 4 hours.

Developmentally Appropriate Ways to Boost Kindergarten Readiness: Part 2, Integrating Math into Daily Classroom Practices and Fostering Independence

Description: This course is part 2 of the “Developmentally Appropriate Ways to Boost Kindergarten Readiness” series. Attendees will review the research connected to school readiness and learn how to integrate foundational math skills in their daily classroom practices, foster independence in young learners, and support students in developing the fine motor skills they will need in kindergarten.

Learning Outcomes:

- Educators will begin to evaluate developmentally appropriate practices to teach foundational math skills.
- Educators will assess their current practices and classroom structures for opportunities to elevate kindergarten readiness.

Format: Virtual Instruction, short videos with teaching tooltips, quizzes, emails/blogs, check-ins, virtual shares and reflections. On-Demand format is also available.

Length: 4 hours.

Social Emotional Development: Teaching Self-Management Tools

Description: Social-emotional skills are an integral part of the healthy development of the whole child. Children who understand their emotions and feel secure in their environment are more likely to thrive. In this session, educators will learn ways that they can support children as they identify their emotions (self-awareness) and gain effective tools to help children with self-management. These tools will cultivate a positive learning environment as well as aid children to rely less on adult intervention. Educators will also examine their classroom setup to identify how the environment can be a powerful teaching tool for reinforcing social-emotional development.

Learning Outcomes:

- Educators will learn about various techniques to support children with self-awareness.
- Educators will begin to apply different strategies to support children with self-management tools.
- Educators will assess their current classroom environment to identify factors that may contribute to a classroom environment conducive to social-emotional development.

Format: Virtual Instruction, short videos with teaching tooltips, quizzes, emails/blogs, check-ins, virtual shares and reflections. On-Demand format is also available.

Length: 4 hours.

5 Discourse Moves to Strengthen Child-Teacher Interactions

Description: The conversations between educator and child throughout formal and informal parts of the day have a tremendous impact on the overall development of the child. Language can be an important part of classroom management, teacher sensitivity, quality of feedback, and regard for student perspective - all major components of the CLASS framework. This Professional Development will provide educators with effective and practical strategies to shape language that will have immediate impacts on educator-child interactions.

Learning Outcomes:

- Educators will understand how to utilize higher order thinking questions in their daily lessons to strengthen conversations with children.
- Educators will understand the benefits of various discourse strategies in meeting diverse learning needs.
- Educators will learn about and discuss strategies for engaging in meaningful discourse with children in their classrooms.

Format: Virtual Instruction, short videos with teaching tooltips, quizzes, emails/blogs, check-ins, virtual shares and reflections. On-Demand format is also available.

Length: 4 hours.

Trauma-Informed Care: What You Need to Know and How It Fits Into Your Everyday Practices

Description: Understanding trauma and its impact on children's behavior is critical to fostering a safe and supportive learning environment. This course will guide educators through the fundamentals of trauma-informed care, helping them recognize signs of trauma and implement trauma-sensitive approaches in their daily routines. Educators will learn how trauma affects learning and behavior and how to build trust and foster student resilience.

Learning Outcomes:

- Educators will define trauma-informed care and its role in early childhood education.
- Educators will identify the signs of trauma and understand how it impacts student behavior and learning.
- Educators will integrate trauma-sensitive practices into their daily routines to create a supportive classroom environment.

Format: Virtual Instruction, short videos with teaching tooltips, quizzes, emails/blogs, check-ins, virtual shares and reflections. On-Demand format is also available.

Length: 4 hours.

Effective Partnerships: Working with Caregivers to Address Challenging Behavior

Description: Building strong, collaborative relationships with caregivers is essential for addressing challenging behaviors in young children. This session will focus on creating effective partnerships with caregivers to ensure consistent strategies are applied both at home and in the classroom. Educators will learn communication techniques, strategies for co-creating behavior plans, and methods to involve caregivers in the process of supporting children's social and emotional development.

Learning Outcomes:

- Educators will learn strategies for effective communication with caregivers about challenging behaviors.
- Educators will co-create behavior plans with caregivers to ensure consistency and support for children at home and in the classroom.
- Educators will reflect on ways to strengthen partnerships with caregivers to foster a supportive learning environment.

Format: Virtual Instruction, short videos with teaching tooltips, quizzes, emails/blogs, check-ins, virtual shares and reflections. On-Demand format is also available.

Length: 4 hours.

Managing Challenging Behaviors: Effective Strategies for Guiding and Supporting Children

Description: Effectively managing challenging behaviors in young children requires strategies that are both supportive and developmentally appropriate. This course emphasizes fostering positive behavior and building a foundation for emotional growth through thoughtful guidance and tailoring techniques for individual needs. Educators will explore practical strategies for addressing challenging behaviors while maintaining fairness, consistency, and a nurturing classroom environment. Through reflection and discussion, participants will learn how to adapt these strategies to meet the unique needs of each child, ensuring a supportive and inclusive approach to behavior management.

Learning Outcomes:

- Educators will learn developmentally appropriate behavior management techniques that promote positive behavior.
- Educators will implement developmentally appropriate strategies to guide and support young children with challenging behaviors.
- Educators will evaluate their current behavior management practices to ensure fairness and consistency across the classroom.

Format: Virtual Instruction, short videos with teaching tooltips, quizzes, emails/blogs, check-ins, virtual shares and reflections. On-Demand format is also available.

Length: 4 hours.

Building Relationships: Teacher-Child and Teacher-Caregiver Connections to Reduce Challenging Behaviors

Description: Strong, trusting relationships between teachers, children, and caregivers are key to reducing challenging behaviors and fostering a positive classroom climate. In this course, educators will explore the importance of relationship-building and learn strategies for connecting with both children and their caregivers. Educators will also identify how these relationships create a sense of security for children, reducing the likelihood of disruptive behavior.

Learning Outcomes:

- Educators will learn strategies for building strong, positive relationships with children and caregivers.
- Educators will reflect on the role of relationships in reducing challenging behaviors.
- Educators will assess their current classroom practices to identify opportunities for strengthening teacher-child and teacher-caregiver relationships.

Format: Virtual Instruction, short videos with teaching tooltips, quizzes, emails/blogs, check-ins, virtual shares and reflections. On-Demand format is also available.

Length: 4 hours.

Differentiating Instruction: What It Means and How It Helps Address Challenging Behavior

Description: Every child learns differently, and differentiating instruction allows educators to meet children where they are, helping to reduce frustration and prevent challenging behaviors. In this session, educators will delve into what differentiation means in practice and how it can be used to support children with varying needs. Educators will learn to tailor instruction to each child's strengths and needs, creating an inclusive classroom environment where all children can succeed.

Learning Outcomes:

- Educators will define differentiated instruction and understand its connection to addressing challenging behaviors.
- Educators will explore strategies for tailoring instruction to meet diverse learning needs in the classroom.
- Educators will assess their current practices and identify opportunities for differentiation to prevent challenging behaviors.

Format: Virtual Instruction, short videos with teaching tooltips, quizzes, emails/blogs, check-ins, virtual shares and reflections. On-Demand format is also available.

Length: 4 hours.



115 Broadway, New York, NY 10006
marcopololearning.com