

# ENC114

Elementary Natural Sciences

## Department

School of Continuing Education (SCE)

## Study year of students

Second year

## Credits: 8

## Module offered during

First semester

## Lecturers

Mr Christo van Wyk

## Brief description

The School of Continuing Education (SCE) presents training sessions for second-year students in Education in order for them to qualify to present Family Science activities to learners. Students are trained in constructivist and hands-on methodology in the teaching of science for intermediate phase learners with different learning styles. Furthermore, they utilise learning and teaching materials that are suitable and affordable for use in community workshops, as well as in the formal classroom situation.

## Community partners

Learners from the following schools in the Motheo District:

- Heide Primary School
- Koot Niemann Intermediate School
- Bainsvlei Combined School
- Joe Solomon Primary School
- Dr Bethual Setai Intermediate School.

## Service sector partners

- ABSA Bank
- Heide Primary School
- Koot Niemann Intermediate School
- Bainsvlei Combined School
- Joe Solomon Primary School
- Dr Bethual Setai Intermediate School.

## Service learning component

The students manage and conduct one session where the Family Science activities are introduced to learners at primary schools in the Motheo District. The students are

divided into smaller groups of three to five students per group and have to prepare as a group to present the activities practically in the classroom. The activities conducted are pre-selected and the group has to organise themselves in terms of each facilitating one of the activities during the sessions. The one-hour activity sessions are scheduled during school hours. The students are accompanied and assessed by SCE facilitators during workshops.

## Outcomes for students

Students acquire skills to raise science literacy levels among young children by making use of everyday experiences in and around the home. As future teachers, they are in the position to lay a firm foundation for their learners in the subject area of Natural Sciences, while at the same time reaching out to the community by presenting these sessions. Students have commented that they find this project invaluable for their own teaching and learning and how, in many cases, their confidence regarding the methodology of Science teaching has grown through attending the training sessions.

## Impact on community

Learners are exposed to hands-on science activities in the classroom. At each participating school an educator also acts as link between the school and the programme. In this regard valuable relationships and partnerships are established between the UFS, the schools and the sponsor, ABSA Bank.



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