

Sunbridge Early Childhood Final Independent Research Project

The final independent research project is an opportunity for students to deepen and extend their work with a selected theme or activity that has been part of or closely related to coursework at Sunbridge Institute. The project extends over the course of one full school year. The theme and proposal are agreed upon in Summer Session II, the research activity is carried out through the final school year, and the final written and oral presentations are due in June of the final Summer Session.

Projects may be focused on research into study themes, artistic activity with a study component, or action research. All projects should have a relationship to deepening the student's understanding of the developing child and the developing educator, working with the anthroposophical view of human development.

For an artistic/action research project, the final paper should be approximately 8 - 10 pages long, accompanied by your artistic creation or documentation of the artistic activity. For a research study project, the length should be 20 - 30 pages, plus appendix, footnotes and bibliography.

You will have 30 minutes for your presentation - a 15- to 20-minute presentation to the class, followed by 10- 15 minutes of questions and answers and conversation. You should consider in advance how you might want to guide this conversation in terms of themes and questions you might want to ask you classmates to discuss.

The written paper should include the following:

1. Your original questions or intentions that prompted you to choose this topic or theme
2. A description of the theme itself
3. A short description of your method for pursuing your questions - how you proceeded with this project
4. The core content - the description of thoughts around the theme, or what you created or discovered or developed (This section might be 6- 10 pages long for an artistic/action project and should be at least 20 pages for a study project).
5. Reflections: what did you learn? Looking back on the process, how do you see this now in relation to your original intentions and questions?
6. New questions on this theme that you will carry into the future.

The Project Proposal should be approved by the end of the Summer Session the year before it is due. If you have questions, please contact your advisor.