

# Analytic Exploration of the State of Safety Education for Preservice Early Childhood Teachers: With Priority Given to the City of Busan

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## Abstract

**Objectives:** The purpose of this study was to examine the state of safety education for preservice early childhood teachers in the curriculums of colleges located in Busan. **Methods/Statistical Analysis:** The departments related to early childhood education were selected by random sampling from four-year universities and two-, three- and four-year private junior colleges in the city of Busan, which numbered 27. **Findings:** The educational statistics yearbooks published by this city between 2011 and 2015 were consulted, and courses related to safety education were selected from the curriculums on the websites of the colleges. And then whether these courses were offered independently or as part of child health education or of similar courses were analyzed. The findings of the study were as follows: First, the names of the departments related to early childhood education were early childhood education, child welfare, child and family studies. Childeducare, and child welfare and educare in the 27 colleges located in this city. 13 schools were equipped with courses related to safety education, and departments related to early childhood education existed in four colleges where no courses related to safety education were offered. Second, as for the titles of the courses related to safety education, there were 10 names for child health education, four for early childhood health education, seven for child safety management and one for child health care. **Improvements/Applications:** The findings implied that safety education was provided not as an independent course but as part of health education courses.

**Keywords:** Health Education, Preservice Early Childhood Teacher, Safety Education

## 1. Introduction

Today's society is severely plagued by natural disasters and various safety accidents that have occurred all over the world in recent years. Under the circumstances, overall society including young children's guardians and early childhood education institutions should make concerted efforts to prevent safety accidents among preschoolers to provide them with safe living spaces because safety accidents are highly likely to take place due to unsafe environments, poor safety guidance from adults and young children themselves who aren't yet good at judgment and self-control and whose physical skills and cognitive power aren't yet good enough to judge what's going on<sup>1-4</sup>.

The purpose of this study was to examine the state of courses on safety education, health education and safety

education against natural disasters in the departments nurturing early childhood teachers in two-, three- and four-year colleges in the region of Busan, as well-planned early childhood safety education is mandatory in today's circumstances. It's basically meant to raise awareness of the importance of curriculums for preservice early childhood teachers and to provide rationale on the necessity of courses related to young children's safety education, health education and safety education against natural disasters.

Two research questions were posed:

1. What is the state of college departments in the region of Busan that nurture preservice early childhood teachers?

2. What is the state of safety education provided by these departments?

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**Table 1.** The list of colleges equipped with departments nurturing teachers related to early childhood in the city of Busan

No.	School	Department	Region	Classification
1	Kyungnam College of Information & Technology	Early childhood education	Sasang-gu	2/3/4-year private junior college
2	Kyungsung University	Early childhood education	Nam-gu	Four-year private univ.
3	Kosin University	Early childhood education Child welfare	Youngdo-gu	Four-year private univ.
4	Daedong College	Early childhood education	Geumjeong-gu	2/3/4-year private junior college
5	Tongmyong University	Early childhood education	Nam-gu	Four-year private univ.
6	Dong-Pusan College	Early childhood education Child educate	Haewundae-gu	2/3-year private junior college
7	Dong-A University	Child and family studies	Saha-gu, Seo-gu	Four-year private univ.
8	Dong-eui Institute of Technology	Early childhood education	Jin-gu	2/3/4-year private junior college
9	Dong-eui University	Early childhood education	Jin-gu	Four-year private univ.
10	Dong-ju College	Early childhood education	Saha-gu	2/3-year private junior college
11	Pukyong National University	Early childhood education	Nam-gu	Four-year national univ.
12	Busan KyungSang College	Early childhood education	Yeonje-gu	2/3-year private junior college
13	Busan Institute of Science & Technology	Early childhood education	Buk-gu	2/3-year private junior college
14	Busan National University of Education	Early childhood education	Yeonje-gu	Four-year national univ.
15	Pusan National University	Early childhood education	Geumjeong-gu	Four-year national univ.
16	Busan Digital University	Child educate	Sasang-gu	Four-year private cyber univ.
17	Busan Women's College	Early childhood education Child welfare and educate	Jin-gu	2/3-year private junior college
18	Seoul Cyber University(Busan Campus)	Child welfare	Youngdo-gu	Four-year private univ.
19	Silla University	Early childhood education	Sasang-gu	Four-year private univ.

## 2. Method

### 2.1 The Subjects

The departments related to nurturing early childhood education teachers were selected by random sampling from four-year universities and two-, three- and four-year private junior colleges in the city of Busan, which numbered 27.

### 2.2 Data Collection

The courses related to safety education were selected from the curriculums on the websites of the selected departments based on the educational statistics yearbooks of Busan(2011-2015)<sup>5-8</sup>. The collected data were analyzed to see whether the courses were offered as independent ones or as part of child health education or similar courses.

## 3. Results

### 3.1 The State of College Departments Nurturing Preservice Early Childhood Teachers in the City of Busan

Out of the 27 colleges, 11 four-year universities including two cyber colleges and eight two-, three- and four-year colleges were equipped with departments that nurtured teachers related to early childhood (see Table 1). And there were two or more departments in 19 colleges that nurtured teachers related to early childhood. These departments numbered 24 in total, and were titled early childhood education, child welfare, child educate, child and family studies, and child welfare and educate.

**Table 2.** The list of the safety-related courses in the departments that nurtured teachers related to early childhood in the colleges in Busan

No.	School	Department	Course	Remarks
1	Kyungnam College of Information & Technology	Early childhood education	Child health education	3-1 core elective
2	Kyungsung University	Early childhood education	Child health education	3-1 core elective
3	Kosin University	Early childhood education	Early childhood health education	2-2 core elective 4-1
		Child welfare	Child safety management	core elective
			Child health education	2-2 core course
4	Daedong College	Early childhood education	Child health education Child nursing	2-1 core elective 3-2 core elective
5	Tongmyong University	Early childhood education	Child safety management Early childhood health education	4-1 core elective 4-2 core elective
6	Dong-Pusan College	Early childhood education	Child health education	
		Child educate	Child health education	
7	Dong-A University	Child and family studies	Child health education	
8	Dong-eui Institute of Technology	Early childhood education	Child health education	
9	Dong-eui University	Early childhood education	Child health education Child safety management	1-1 Major key 4-1 core enrichment course
10	Dong-ju College	Early childhood education	Child health education. Child safety management	2-1 major course 3-2 major course
11	Pukyong National University	Early childhood education	Child health education Child nursing	2 core elective 4 core elective
12	Busan KyungSang College	Child welfare and educate counsel	Child safety management Child health education	entrance in 2015 entrance in 2016
		Early childhood education	Child health and safety education	2-1 core course
13	Busan Institute of Science & Technology	Early childhood education	Child health education	3-1 core elective
14	Busan National University of Education	Early childhood education	Child health education	
15	Pusan National University	Early childhood education	Child health education	core course
16	Busan Digital University	Child educate	Child safety management. Child health education	1-1 core elective(basic) 3-1 core course(advanced)
17	Busan Women's College	Early childhood education	Child health education Child safety management	
		Child welfare and educate	Child health education Child safety management	
18	Seoul Cyber University (Busan Campus)	Child welfare	Child health education	1 intensive summer course
19	Silla University	Early childhood education	Early childhood nutrition and health studies	core elective

**Table 3.** The list of the safety-related independent courses in the college departments

No.	School	Department	Course	Remarks
1	Kosin Univ.	Early childhood education	Early childhood health education Child safety management	2-2 core elective 4-1 core elective
2	Tongmyong Univ.	Early childhood education	Child safety management Early childhood health education	4-1 core elective 4-2 core elective
3	Dong-Pusan College	Early childhood education Child educare	Child health education Child health education	
4	Dong-Eui Institute of Technology	Early childhood education	Child health education Child safety management	1-1 Major key 4-1 advanced major course
5	Dong-ju College	Early childhood education	Child health education Child safety management	2-1 major course 3-1 major course
6	Busan KyungSang College	Child welfare and educare counsel Early childhood education	Child safety management Child health education Child health and safety education	entrance in 2015 entrance in 2016 2-1 core course
7	Busan National University of Education	Early childhood education	Child health education	
8	Busan Digital Univ.	Division of child educare and education	Child safety management Child health education	1-1 core elective(basic) 3-1 core course(advanced)
9	Busan Women's College	Early childhood education Child welfare and educare	Child health education Child safety management Child health education Child safety management	1-2 major course 2-2 major course

### 3.2 The State of Safety Education in the Departments of the Colleges

The safety-related courses that were titled child health education, early childhood health education and child safety management were offered by the colleges that nurtured teachers related to early childhood in Busan. And the courses on child health education were offered in all the 24 departments in the 19 colleges (Table 2).

In addition, there were independent safety management courses in 10 departments in nine colleges (Table 3).

## 4. Conclusion

First, there were departments nurturing teachers related to early childhood in 19 out of 27 colleges located in the city of Busan, which were 11 four-year universities including two cyber ones and eight two-, three- or four-year colleges. The names of the departments were various, which were early childhood education, child welfare, child educare, child and family studies, and child welfare and educare. The names of these departments were diverse. The integration of early childhood education and educare

is still one of major challenges in our society, and that's why the departments were differently named except for the department of early childhood education<sup>4,9</sup>.

Second, the safety-related courses offered by the colleges in Busan were titled child health education, early childhood health education or child safety management. The majority were independent courses on child health education and safety management. Although the safety management courses were independent, most of them were core electives, and there is no need for preservice early childhood teachers to take these courses without fail.

In conclusion, a systematized, down-to-earth curriculum should urgently be prepared to ensure the efficiency of safety management courses, which should be offered as core courses.

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