<u>Early Childhood MTEL Peer Study Group: Study Tips, Flashcards, Resources</u>
facilitated by Donna Picciarello and Colleen Smith.

Link test objectives with appropriate curriculum frameworks and related Lesley coursework. This accomplishes several objectives:

Familiarity with the language and content for the test, reinforces what is expected from a K-12 (for you a pre-K-2 perspective), perspective, and links familiar course content with less familiar test content.

Study Tips:

- Create a calendar/timeline and stick to it!
    - Decide what you will study on what day and for how long
    - For example: If Tuesdays are crazy days for classes, don't study, do extra on a slower, less stressful day
- Isolation – no distractions, quiet room, turn off TV, tidy work area
- Flashcards – they are portable!
    - On the T/bus
    - Waiting rooms
    - Before class
    - During meals
    - Right before bed
- Study one subject at a time
    - Suggestion: an hour a subject
    - If studying for longer than an hour, change topics so not to get bored and frustrated
    - Take breaks between subjects so not to get exhausted and burnt out
- Take a timed practice test the day before the exam
- Do not stay up late studying the night before the test, do something for yourself!
    - Watch a movie
    - Go out to dinner
    - Read a 'fun' book or magazine
    - Spend time with friends
- Go to bed early
- Eat a healthy and substantial breakfast – it's a long test with no snacks!
- Do not try to stress and study something new the day of the test – only review
    - Outlines
    - Notes
    - Flashcards

Ideas for flashcards on test objectives:

Development

- Knowledge of child development
    - Theories of child development
        - i.e. Piaget, Vygotsky, Erikson, Howard Gardner, etc.
- Characteristics of development
    - Cognitive
    - Language
    - Physical
    - Social
    - Emotional
    - Moral
        - i.e. what happens at each through developmental stage
        - ALSO: what may impair child's development in various domains (ex family functioning, etc)
        - ALSO: interrelationships between all developmental stages

- Prenatal development
    - Month by month
- Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)
- Nature vs. Nurture
- Scaffolding

Disabilities

- Types of disabilities
    - i.e fragile x, down syndrome, etc.
- Types of developmental delays
- Effects of these delays on other functioning
- Identification of students with exceptional learning needs
    - Symptoms typical of disability
- In classroom inclusion of these students
    - i.e. modification of curriculum, instruction, materials, resources
- Legal responsibilities and requirements
    - i.e. IEP, inclusionary practices, services, etc.
- Purposes and Procedures for
    - IEP, 504's, Individualized Family Service Plans, etc.
- WORKING WITH FAMILIES
    - Role and influence of families on children
    - Family development
    - Community resources to assist families
    - Child protection laws

Children's Literature

- Major authors and titles for young children
    - *Cinderella* - Brothers Grimm
    - *Where the Wild Things Are* – Maurice Sendak (Best known for writing about children's fears and coming terms with them)
    - *Goodnight Moon* – Margaret Wise Brown
- Genres
    - i.e. differences between fairy tale vs. fable, different kinds
    - i.e. differences between expository text, autobiography, biography, non fiction, fiction, environmental print
- Themes found in these pieces
    - i.e. effect on children → bibliotherapy
- Literary Devices
    - i.e. analogies, metaphors, etc.
- Evaluation of children's literature
    - i.e. reading level, quality, cultural representation, information, vocabulary, etc.

Writing for various purposes

- Developmental continuum of writing
- Prewriting/Drafting strategies
    - i.e. the writing process
- Editing
    - i.e. English conventions**,** theme**,** transitions, etc.
- Consideration of audience
    - i.e. narrative, third person, point story is trying to get across, etc.

Math

- Basic functions
    - i.e. addition, subtraction, multiplication, division
- Number representations
    - i.e. cardinal, ordinal, etc.
- Fractions vs. Decimals vs. Percent
- Patterns
- Geometry
    - i.e. types of geometric figures, properties (symmetry, etc.)
- Measurement
    - i.e. units, area, length, width, diameter, etc.
- Formulas
    - i.e. area of shapes (rectangle, square, triangle, etc)
- Mathematical symbols

History

- Massachusetts and US History
    - i.e. Constitutions, origins, political, religious, aesthetic influences.
- Geography
    - i.e. basic concepts of regions, features of all, hemispheres, poles, bodies of water, etc.
- Economic and Political Concepts
    - i.e. representative government, supply and demand, etc.
- Functions of federal, states and local government
- Laws
    - How they are enacted and enforced
    - Due process
- Democratic principles within legal documents
    - i.e. due process, rule of law, equal protection, etc.
- US Citizen civic duties
    - Respecting others rights, obeying laws and rules, paying taxes, jury duty, etc.

Science

- Foundations of thought
    - i.e. reliance on information, avoidance of bias, etc.
- Major scientific discoveries, logical arguments
    - Relationship between science and technology
    - i.e. cell research, human body, etc.
    - Environment
    - i.e. cells, human body, ecosystems, etc.
    - solar system
    - lunar phases
- Key people
    - Isaac Newton, Einstein, Alexander Fleming, Edison, Michael Faraday, etc
- Celsius vs. Fahrenheit (You do not need to memorize the formula, but you must understand how to use the formula)

Resource List:

- Test Objectives
    - Listed and explained on MTEL website http://www.mtel.nesinc.com/MA_testobjectives.asp

- Frameworks
    - Review and have an understanding of all subject areas
    - http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/current.html

- Child Development Text books and class notes
    - *Development through the Lifespan* – Berk

- Practice Test
    - PRINT IT OUT!
    - Practice the entire test with the appropriate time (4 hours)

- MTEL guidebooks for Elementary Grades or General Curriculum
    - *Methods, Strategies, and Elementary Content for Beating: AEPA, FTCE, MSAT, MTEL, MTTC, NMTA, NYSTCE, OSAT, PLACE, PRAXIS, TEXES* – Chris Nicholas Boosalis
    - *MTEL General Curriculum -*
    - *Beating them All! Thirty Days to a Magic Score on Any Elementary Literacy Instruction Exam for Teacher Certification* – Chris Nicholas Boosalis

- Let's Pass! (Resource on Lesley website)
    - http://my.lesley.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp

- Children's Resource Books
    - Children's Encyclopedias (helpful with science concepts)
    - Children's Atlas
    - Children's Social Studies, Math, Language Arts, Science textbooks

- Children's websites:
    - http://www.sec.state.ma.us/cis/ciskid/kididx.htm (Children's link associated with Ma.gov)
    - http://www.sciencewithme.com/
    - http://www.sciencemadesimple.com/
    - Google any topic included with the word "children" or "kids" (i.e. science for kids, math concepts for kids, world history for kids, etc)

- Magazines
    - National Geographic/ National Geographic Kids

- Town/City public school websites
    - Search the Curriculum
    - http://www3.newton.k12.ma.us/curriculum