

# Berrien Springs Partnership Lab Syllabus and Instructor Qualifications

LABS (CLASSES) ARE PROVIDED AS AN EDUCATIONAL SOURCE FOR PBL (PROJECT BASED LEARNING)

**COMMUNITY CLASS TITLE:** Mom and Me Crochet

**GRADE OR AGE LEVELS:** 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

**FORMAT:**  IN-PERSON  ONLINE  FLEXIBLE

**DAY AND TIME OF THE WEEK:**

Week of Sept 13<sup>th</sup>-Week of Dec 6<sup>th</sup> (off during week of Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>)

Mondays in Coloma 3:30-4:50 or Wednesdays 1:25-2:45

Additional options can be arranged by request.

(minimum of 3 students needed for any class)

**TOTAL REQUIRED HRS: 16 ADD'L POSSIBLE HRS (OPTIONAL TIME):**

**TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS POSSIBLE: 16**

**LOCATION:**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Niki McNeil

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** phone: email: website:

269-876-6518 [nikimcneil@comcast.net](mailto:nikimcneil@comcast.net) [www.eclecticallymeniki.com](http://www.eclecticallymeniki.com)

**ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION AT SITE REQUIRED?**  YES  NO

**IF YES, INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGISTRATION:**

For the time being I will not be able to utilize common spaces such as Martin's or the Library in attempt to keep everyone safe and ensure the least risk possible.

I will continue to teach in South Haven at First Baptist Church as I am able to use a space not being shared by others and bring in my own table and chairs. I will also be holding classes within my home in Coloma. Please note I have friendly cats, if your student has severe allergies, it might be best to pick a different location for this semester, if your student has a fear of cats I can keep them separated please just let me know ahead of class time. When weather permits, we may meet outside.

Virtual and Flexible Courses offer the option of live classes at a set time each week or the ability for asynchronous learning where a pre-recorded lesson will be sent out each week for the student to work through and turn in prior to the next week. Live classes will use Zoom and Flexible classes will utilize Padlet, a free app/website (no sign in required) to host our work, discussions and collaborations.

Virtual classes have the ability to be once per week for 80 minutes or twice per week for 40 minutes each so pay attention to the schedule when choosing.

After signing up for any of my classes please email me at [nikimcneil@comast.net](mailto:nikimcneil@comast.net) and let me know which format you'd like to take (In-Person/Virtual-Online/or Flexile. Please pay attention to the syllabus as not all classes are available in all formats. Also include the location if you chose in person classes or the day/time if you chose virtual.

Complete supply lists will go out 2 weeks prior to classes starting to ensure that there is adequate enrollment to run the class.

**INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS (may attach a separate page if necessary):**

Art and Creativity are what get me through the day. The joy that creating provides is something that should be shared and explored by all!

I have been teaching in one aspect or another all my life, from helping in Sunday School classrooms as a teen to teaching my own classrooms at 18. I was a lead teacher for a Preschool prior to having my own family. Once I had children, I was organizing local families into craft clubs and field trips. It was only natural that we chose to homeschool. When I struggled to find a curriculum that would work well with my very hands on son and my visual daughter, I set out to create my own. This curriculum is still on the market 19 years later and being used in homeschools and classrooms across the world.

I believe all learning styles can be taught in the same space in most cases and you will find that 99% of my classes are project based for the reason. Putting the learning into the hands of the students helps retention and instills a love of learning. I teach for enjoyment and want my students to also enjoying the learning process, you will not find me teaching to a test or requesting memorization of facts. I will find fun and creative ways to get kids learning without them even realizing it most of them time. Some may call it arts and crafts, but I guarantee you your students will love it and they will learn and more importantly retain the information being taught.

I have always felt that art was important. I did not always know how to put it into words necessarily, but I realized early on that it always left me in a better mood than when I started. With our current “social distance” needs, my views on the need for a creative outlet have gone from thinking they are important to knowing they are ESSENTIAL. We need to create our own happiness and when at all possible share that joy with others.

While we are all struggling to process our thoughts and fears, our kids are also struggling to put into words what they are feeling. ART CAN HELP. It can become a way to slowly work through thoughts and feelings. Sometimes a feeling is easier expressed in color or shape than in words. And art does not always have to be in the form of a painting or drawing, but a visual representation of what they’re learning. Check out my class listings to see how many different ways arts and crafts can really be learning.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION (OVERVIEW):

This is the perfect option for students who struggle with new concepts or are in the K-3rd grade range. While these students could realistically learn on their own, their growth and success will skyrocket if someone else in the home is learning alongside them. Because this is a weekly class, having Mom (or another adult) learn next to them allows for more practice throughout the week. I have also seen many benefits from these students seeing that even adults struggle when learning new concepts, they often feel we can just pick something up and do it, this class shows them we have to work just as hard to learn a new skill and ask questions too!

We will be focusing on furthering your talent as a crochet artist or helping you become one. This class is project based, with each project advancing your skills in crochet. Each student will then be turned loose to work on the project at their own pace, some students will complete 4+ projects per semester while others may only finish one. I will help students master reading patterns, understanding graphs and adapting patterns based on what they’d like to create. This class will be learn-at-your-own pace so that each student can excel at their natural ability without becoming frustrated. No at home time is required (though it will not be discouraged!) We will be doing unique projects so students are encouraged to repeat the class and gain mastery of new skills.

### SYLLABUS/OUTLINE: WEEKLY BREAKDOWN OF PROJECT-BASED LEARNING LAB ACTIVITIES

*Describe activities that will reinforce the lesson. Include any work and time to be required outside of class:*

*Each week we will be advancing our project, learning new stitches or reinforcing stitches already learned.*

### COURSE OBJECTIVES AND APPROXIMATE TARGET DATES:

Crochet is an immersion activity. You can spend years learning new techniques and still have more to learn. Each lesson we will work on becoming more independent and advancing the skills for our current project. Each project get more difficult as we progress through the semester.

*Steps to check for student understanding, along with dates or # of weeks into class:*

*Each week students will be assessed and given skill building practices to work on at home.*

## **STUDENT ASSESSMENT - what will be used to evaluate student progress and/or end of semester pass/fail status?**

- 1) Student agrees to attend at least 80% of class sessions/lessons offered. Attendance is kept online and tracked by Partnership staff. Failure to meet 80% or be on track to meet 80% may result in program discontinuation.
- 2) The Partnership Student Assessment or Performance Form is filled out by the teacher and turned in to Partnership staff. The link to this form is found on the web page for this class. Failing marks for lack of participation, behavior issues, practice time, etc. may result in program discontinuation.

**Class-specific assessment:** discuss and include the form or a link to the form that you use.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** (online, books, video, etc.):

**CLASS POLICIES: ATTENDANCE, BEHAVIOR, WEATHER, ETC.**

**Attendance:** Please let me know if your learner will not be in class whenever possible. I try to wait for all students to begin teaching and not knowing causes delay for no reason. If I know in advance, I am happy to prepare a virtual make up lesson for the student.

**Weather:** I follow the local school districts weather based decisions when possible. If either the district I live in (Coloma) or the district the class is held in (South Haven/Lakeshore etc) cancels for the day we will not have class in person. If we have more than 1 weather related cancellation a semester the rest will be moved to virtual to avoid the need for make-up hours.

**Other:** I expect students to be kind and respectful keeping our class a safe space for all students to explore their creativity.