

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION 40

Description

Students in Early Childhood Education plan and operate a preschool program for twenty-four three to five year-old children from the community. Students meet one period a day to evaluate the individual needs of the children in the program and to plan and create developmentally appropriate lesson plans. In addition, students will spend two to four lab periods per week in the preschool creating a safe, healthy and stimulating learning environment for the children in the program. 3 credits, 7-9 periods weekly.

Course Overview

Course Goals

Students should:

Essential Questions

- How does nutrition and wellness influence the quality of life?
- What are the employability skills necessary for a child oriented career?
- What factors impact and enhance the developmental needs and interests of children?
- What traits that contribute to positive and caring relationships are necessary to develop?

Assessments

Common Assessments

Skill Assessments

Content Outline

- I. [Unit 1](#) - Types of Early Childhood Programs
- II. [Unit 2](#) - Preparing the Preschool Laboratory
- III. [Unit 3](#) - Lesson Plan Creation
- IV. [Unit 4](#) - Promoting Child Safety
- V. [Unit 5](#) - Nutrition
- VI. [Unit 6](#) - Storytelling
- VII. [Unit 7](#) - Guiding Positive Behavior

Standards

[Family and Consumer Science Standards](#)

Connecticut State Standards are met in the following areas:

- *Early Childhood, Education, and Child Care Services*
- *Nutrition and Wellness*
- *Child Development and Parenting Education*
- *Interpersonal Relationships*

Grade Level Skills

Students will:

- Skills Matrix

Pacing Guide

Pacing Guide										
1st Marking Period			2nd Marking Period			3rd Marking Period			4th Marking Period	
September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	
Unit 1 <u>Types of Early Childhood Programs</u> 1 week	Unit 2 <u>Preparing the Preschool Laboratory</u> 1 week	Unit 6 <u>Storytelling</u> 4 weeks			Unit 7 <u>Guiding Positive Behavior</u> Ongoing					
Unit 3 <u>Lesson Plan Creation</u> 2 weeks		These units are ongoing after first instruction								
Unit 4 <u>Promoting Child Safety</u> 1 week										
Unit 5 <u>Nutrition</u> 1 week										

Unit 1 - Types of Early Childhood Programs, 1 week [top](#)

Standards

Early Childhood, Education, and Child Care Services

Students will demonstrate the integration of knowledge, skills, and practices required for careers in Early Childhood Education and services.

Students will:

- analyze career paths within early childhood education and childcare services.

Unit Objectives

Students will be able to:

- list and describe the various types of early childhood programs to parents and their children.
- explain advantages and disadvantages of each type of program.

Essential Question

- What are the employability skills necessary for a child oriented career?

Focus Questions

- What types of early childhood education programs are currently available?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of each type of program?
- What qualities should be considered when selecting a childcare program?
- What knowledge, skills and practices are required to achieve success in early childhood education related fields?

Assessments

- Each student will visit a local preschool and evaluate it, using the student designed checklist.
- Unit quiz and/or test

Skill Objective

Students will:

- design a checklist for choosing a quality childcare program.

Unit 2 – Preparing the Preschool Laboratory, 1 week [top](#)

Standards

Early Childhood, Education, and Child Care Services

Students will demonstrate the integration of knowledge, skills and practices required for careers in early childhood education services.

Students will:

- demonstrate integration of curriculum and instruction to meet children’s developmental needs and interests.

Unit Objective

Students will be able to:

- name the basic activity areas appropriate in a preschool laboratory and identify the functions of each.

Essential Question

- What are the employability skills necessary for a child oriented career?

Focus Questions

- What are the basic activity areas that are essential in a preschool?
- What factors affect the organization of space and activity areas in a preschool laboratory?
- What are the guidelines for selecting developmentally appropriate toys, equipment, and educational materials?
- What physical elements of a preschool laboratory best meet the needs of the developing child?

Assessment

- Create a floor plan incorporating appropriate space for a variety of activity centers

Skill Objectives

Students will:

- select developmentally appropriate toys, equipment and educational materials.
- organize basic activity areas in the preschool lab and outside play area.

Unit 3 - Lesson Plan Creation, Initial teacher instruction – 2 weeks / Monthly lesson plan assessments - October through May [top](#)

Standards

Early Childhood, Education, and Child Care Services

Students will demonstrate the integration of knowledge, skills, and practices required for careers in Early Childhood Education and services.

Students will:

- analyze developmentally appropriate practices to plan for early childhood education and child care services.

Unit Objective

Students will be able to:

- identify elements of a developmentally appropriate lesson plan.

Essential Question

- What are the employability skills necessary for a child oriented career?

Focus Questions

- What should be considered in curriculum planning?
- What are the elements of an appropriate lesson plan?
- What is the value of consistent lesson plan assessment?
- How does careful and creative lesson plan preparation affect the quality of the preschool experience?

Assessment

- Monthly lesson plans will be assessed using the “Student Lesson Plan Rubric”

Skill Objectives

Students will:

- design and implement an age appropriate lesson plan.
- self-assess lesson plans.

Unit 4 - Promoting Child Safety, Initial teacher instruction – 1 week / Safety practices assessed daily - October through May [top](#)

Standards

Early Childhood, Education, and Child Care Services

Students will demonstrate the integration of knowledge, skills, and practices required for careers in early childhood education and services.

Students will:

- implement a safe and healthy learning environment for children.

Unit Objectives

Students will be able to:

- describe guidelines for promoting children’s safety.
- describe safety factors to consider when purchasing toys and playground equipment.

Essential Question

- What are the employability skills necessary for a child oriented career?

Focus Questions

- What constitutes a safe environment for children?
- What are the guidelines for selecting developmentally appropriate toys, equipment, and educational materials?
- What is the importance of first aid training for an early childhood caregiver/teacher?

Assessment

- Create a child safety poster

Skill Objectives

Students will:

- demonstrate basic first aid techniques.
- practice safety procedures at all times.

Unit 5 - Nutrition, Initial teacher instruction – 1 week / Nutritional snack provided to preschoolers – assessed daily October through May [top](#)

Standards

Nutrition and Wellness

Students will demonstrate nutrition and wellness practices that enhance the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities.

Students will:

- analyze factors that influence nutrition and wellness practices across the lifespan

Unit Objectives

Students will be able to:

- encourage children to try new foods.
- plan a variety of nutritious and appealing snacks.
- identify and accommodate individual food allergies.

Essential Question

- How does nutrition and wellness influence the quality of life?

Focus Questions

- What is the importance of planning nutritious and appealing snacks for children?
- What are the goals of a good nutrition program?
- What are the guidelines for selecting daily preschool snacks?

Assessment

- Describe 10 creative and nutritional snacks appealing to the preschool child

Skill Objectives

Students will:

- plan and prepare a variety of nutritious snacks.
- conduct positive food and nutrition experiences for children that promote healthy eating habits.

Unit 6 – Storytelling, 4 weeks [top](#)

Standards

Child Development and Parenting Education

Students will analyze child growth and development and evaluate the impact of parenting roles and responsibilities on individuals and families.

Students will:

- identify strengths that promote growth and development during childhood.

Unit Objectives

Students will be able to:

- explain the advantages of storytelling.
- evaluate and critique the effectiveness of various types of children’s books.

Essential Question

- What factors impact and enhance the developmental needs and interests of children?

Focus Questions

- What are the advantages of storytelling?
- What guidelines should be followed in selecting an appropriate book for the preschool child?
- What conditions enhance the storytelling experience?

Assessment

- Videotape each student reading an age appropriate book to the preschool children

Skill Objectives

Students will:

- outline the process of selecting age appropriate books.
- demonstrate the steps to follow when reading aloud to children.
- create a complete lesson plan around a children’s book.

Unit 7 – Guiding Positive Behavior, Ongoing [top](#)

Standards

Interpersonal Relationships

Students will demonstrate respectful and caring relationships in the family, school, workplace, and community.

Students will:

- choose positive coping strategies to deal with difficult situations.

Unit Objectives

Students will be able to:

- give examples of effective techniques for encouraging appropriate behavior.
- explain how to set limits and why they are important.
- identify ways of dealing with inappropriate behavior.
- explain the importance of consistency when guiding children.

Essential Question

- What traits that contribute to positive and caring relationships are necessary to develop?

Focus Questions

- What situations and feelings cause tension in children?
- What are the goals of effective guidance?
- What are appropriate and effective guidance techniques to practice in a preschool environment?

Assessments

Skill Objectives

Students will:

- practice consistency when guiding children in the preschool.
- demonstrate effective techniques in guiding appropriate behavior.
- create and implement effective transitions.