

Curriculum Development
In the Fairfield Public Schools

FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT

**EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION 30**

BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVED 06/24/2008

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION 30

Statement of Purpose

This course is to prepare students for a career in child care or early childhood education. The responsibilities and characteristics of successful early childhood teachers and caregivers will be examined and practiced.

Audience

Grades 11, 12

Prerequisite

Successful completion of Child Development 30 and teacher recommendation

Design and 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 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.
- name the basic activity areas appropriate in a preschool laboratory and identify the functions of each.
- identify the elements of a developmentally appropriate lesson plan.
- describe guidelines for promoting children's safety.
- describe safety factors to consider when purchasing toys and playground equipment.
- encourage children to try new foods.
- plan a variety of nutritious and appealing snacks.
- identify and accommodate individual food allergies.
- explain the advantages of storytelling.
- evaluate and critique the effectiveness of various types of children's books.
- 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.

Skill Objectives

Students will be able to:

- design a checklist for choosing a quality childcare program.

- select developmentally appropriate toys, equipment and educational materials.
- organize basic activity areas in the preschool lab and outside play area.
- design and implement an age appropriate lesson plan.
- self-assess lesson plans.
- demonstrate basic first aid techniques
- practice safety procedures at all times.
- plan and prepare a variety of nutritious snacks.
- conduct positive food and nutrition experiences for children that promote health eating habits.
- 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.
- practice consistency when guiding children in the preschool.
- demonstrate effective techniques in guiding appropriate behavior.
- create and implement effective transitions.

Family and Consumer Sciences 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

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

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

Students will implement a safe and healthy learning environment for children.

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

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.

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.

Information and Technology Standards (to be added)

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?

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?
- 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?
- 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?
- 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?
- 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?
- 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?

- 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?

Units of Study

Unit 1: Types of Early Childhood Programs

Family and Consumer Sciences Standard

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.

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?

Core Topics

- Types of Early Childhood Education Programs
- Advantages and Disadvantages of Each Program
- Choosing Quality Childcare

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.

Skill Objective

Students will:

- design a checklist for choosing a quality childcare program.

Sample Assessment

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

Pacing

1 week

Unit 2: Preparing the Preschool Laboratory

Family and Consumer Sciences Standard

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.

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?

Core Topics

- Basic Activity Areas for the Laboratory and Outside Play Area
- Developmentally Appropriate Toys, Equipment and Educational Materials

Unit Objective

Students will be able to:

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

Skill Objectives

Students will:

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

Sample Assessment

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

Pacing

1 week

Unit 3: Lesson Plan Creation

Family and Consumer Sciences Standard

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.

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?

Core Topics

- Elements of a Lesson Plan
- Use of themes as a Basis for Lesson Planning
- Lesson Plan Assessment

Unit Objective

Students will be able to:

- identify elements of a developmentally appropriate lesson plan.

Skill Objectives

Students will:

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

Sample Assessment

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

Pacing

Initial teacher instruction – 2 weeks

Monthly lesson plan assessments - October through May

Unit 4: Promoting Child Safety

Family and Consumer Sciences Standard

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.

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?

Core Topics

- First Aid Training
- Selecting Safe and Age Appropriate Toys and Equipment
- Maintaining a Safe Environment and Enforcing Safety Procedures

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.

Skill Objectives

Students will:

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

Sample Assessment

Create a child safety poster

Pacing

Initial teacher instruction – 1 week

Safety practices assessed daily - October through May

Unit 5: Nutrition

Family and Consumer Sciences Standard

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

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?

Core Topics

- Understanding the Importance of Proper Nutrition
- Guidelines for Selecting Appropriate Snacks
- Planning Nutritious Preschool Snacks

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.

Skill Objectives

Students will:

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

Sample Assessment

Describe 10 creative and nutritional snacks appealing to the preschool child

Pacing

Initial teacher instruction – 1 week

Nutritional snack provided to preschoolers – assessed daily October through May

Unit 6: Storytelling

Family and Consumer Sciences Standard

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.

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?

Core Topics

- Advantages of Storytelling.
- Types of Children's Books
- Storytelling Techniques
- Selecting Age Appropriate Books

Unit Objectives

Students will be able to:

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

Skill Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 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.

Sample Assessment

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

Pacing

4 weeks

Unit 7: Guiding Positive Behavior

Family and Consumer Sciences Standard

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.

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?

Core Topics

- Techniques for Effective Guidance
- Goals of Effective Guidance
- Understanding Misbehavior
- Sensory Integration
- Transitions
- Importance of Consistency and Routines

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.

Skill Objectives

Students will:

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

Sample Assessment

Pacing

October through May