

Early Childhood Education I

Early Childhood Education I is a one-credit course. The prerequisite for this course is Education and Training. Course content is designed to help students learn ways to direct and operate an early childhood education program. Major topics are organizational structure; personnel policies, rules, and regulations; liability issues; principles of human growth and development; human development theories; observation techniques; interpersonal skills for promoting positive and productive relationships with children and their families; developmentally appropriate activities; individual and group activities; organization of teaching materials and supplies; learning activity centers; lesson plans; smooth transitions between routines and activities; teaching aides; operating equipment; play and recreational activities; dietary needs of children; preparation of snacks and meals; child health and safety; parental involvement; community resources; technology; and careers. An early childhood education facility with children is required and essential for students to develop skills in teaching children.

Career and technical student organizations are integral, cocurricular components of each career and technical education course. These organizations serve as a means to enhance classroom instruction while helping students develop leadership abilities, expand workplace-readiness skills, and broaden opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Early Childhood Education Programs

Students will:

1. Design an early childhood education program utilizing child development theories.
2. Determine the need for early childhood education programs.
3. Interpret requirements of a quality early childhood education program.
4. Compare by age and stages of development the grouping of children in early childhood education programs.
5. Evaluate types of early childhood education programs.
Examples: public; private, including church-sponsored programs

Guidance of Children

6. Demonstrate positive techniques for guiding the behavior of children in an early childhood education program.
7. Demonstrate communication skills and behaviors that support the building of self-esteem, self-help skills, and healthy practices.
8. Describe strategies for providing information to parents regarding issues and concerns that impact the child's development.
9. Interpret local and state requirements for reporting suspected child abuse and neglect.

Learning Environment

10. Determine procedures for establishing and maintaining a safe, clean, and healthy learning environment for children.
Examples: reporting accidents, conducting emergency drills, adhering to playground and transportation safety, administering medication, isolating children with illnesses
11. Determine practices that relate to infectious disease control.
12. Describe techniques for encouraging healthy eating habits for children.
13. Demonstrate interpersonal skills by promoting productive relationships with children and their families.
14. Assess types of furnishings, equipment, technology, and supplies used in early childhood education facilities.

Teaching and Learning

15. Develop unit or thematic lesson plans that include developmentally appropriate activities for an early childhood education program.
Examples: plans that include sensory integration, physical and cognitive development, language and literacy, creative social play, recreational activities
16. Design developmentally appropriate activities for a diverse population, including special needs children.
17. Practice evidence-based teaching strategies used in teaching young children.
18. Create across-the-curriculum developmental teaching aids for early childhood education programs.
19. Assess ways technology is used to impact an early childhood education program.
20. Analyze career options related to the field of early childhood education.