

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary

Course Prefix and Number: CHD 120

Credits: 3

Course Title: Introduction to Early Childhood Education

Course Description: Introduces early childhood development through activities and experiences in early childhood, pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and primary programs. Investigates classroom organization and procedures, and use of classroom time and materials, approaches to education for young children, professionalism, and curricular procedures. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: To introduce the student to the field of early childhood education, including characteristics and needs of children in a variety of early care and education settings, the role of the professional, and requirements for employment in the field.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites: none

Course Objectives:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- a. Describe and illustrate theoretical and historical bases of early childhood education;
- b. Classify and interpret developmental characteristics of young children from infancy through age eight;
- c. Compare and contrast physical, cognitive, social, and emotional differences among children from infancy through age eight when planning appropriate curriculum;
- d. Classify and critique characteristics of developmentally appropriate materials and activities;
- e. Explain the importance of guiding daily routines and group activities for young children;
- f. Practice techniques for creating and maintaining appropriate environments and curriculum which meet the needs of all young children;
- g. Articulate the importance of culture in planning classroom experiences, communicating with families, and guiding behavior of young children;
- h. Identify and explain basic health, safety, and nutritional needs of children;
- i. Discuss positive guidance and behavior management strategies;
- j. Describe the teacher's role in reporting suspected child abuse;
- k. Define and demonstrate professional ethics and confidentiality when working with children and families; and
- l. Identify and apply learning standards as they relate to early childhood education: the Virginia Foundation Blocks, the Child Development Milestones, the Virginia Standards of Learning, and Core Competencies for Early Childhood Professionals.

Major Topics to Be Included:

- a. Legal and professional requirements for employment in an early childhood setting
- b. Emerging professional identity and educational philosophy
- c. Professional organizations, periodicals and journals, and advocacy practices in the field of early childhood education

Effective Date of Course Content Summary: June 2, 2016