

COURSE: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS

OVERVIEW OF COURSE

Goal

The student will be prepared to assume the role as a wage earner in the Child Care industry. Students will develop skills and knowledge required to adequately and safely supervise children.

Description

This course provides an in-depth study of early childhood education including managerial, curricular and developmental theory and application. It includes extensive work with children: students develop programs and participate in clinical laboratory experiences for a minimum of six (6) hours per week for the entire school year with infants, preschoolers, or young children. They will plan, prepare, and present activities for the group's physical, interpersonal, and learning development. Incorporation of Parenting and Child Development are an integral part of this program. The course time allocations can be modified to meet specific job skills and local needs.

Message to the Teacher

The Early Childhood Education Programs course is the career training part of a 5-unit Human Services and Family Studies sequence. This is an upper level, highly skill-oriented program designed to be taught where students spend part of their school day for the entire year participating in this curriculum. The sequence in a high school setting should include Introduction to Occupations, the Human Development Core, and the Food and Nutrition Core. It is highly recommended that the Parenting and Child Development courses be a part of the student's program.

Skills, Knowledge, and Behaviors to be Developed

The ability to:

1. Identify the types of programs serving children and characteristics of these programs.
2. Evaluate a program to determine the quality of care it provides for children.
3. Identify desirable characteristics of an early childhood center's indoor and outdoor space design.
4. List reasons for establishing goals in a child care program.
5. Arrange steps in the management of a child care program.
6. Plan, prepare, and present activities necessary for organizing a group's physical, interpersonal, and learning environment.
7. Assist in the daily operation of an early childhood education center.
8. Observe policies of centers concerning work schedules, absences, and health regulations.