



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CHATHAMS CURRICULUM PROFILE

CONTENT AREA(S): Family & Consumer Science

COURSE/GRADE LEVEL(S): Early Childhood Development, grades 10-12

I. Course Overview

This course provides an introduction to early childhood behavior and education. Through a balance of theory and practice, students learn how to design curriculum and lesson plans for children. To complement coursework and sharpen their critical and creative thinking, students gain real-world experience working with a kindergarten enrichment program (CHS' *Kinder Cubs*) that offers young children developmentally age-appropriate guidance and educational activities in the areas of literature, arts/crafts, science/cooking, math, dramatic play, music and physical fitness. By implementing their lesson plans in this school setting, students come to see the relationship between theoretical and practical knowledge, and gain valuable experience interacting with children.

II. Standards

- 9.2.12 A. Critical Thinking
- 9.2.12 B. Self-Management
- 9.2.12 C. Interpersonal Communication
- 9.2.12 D. Character Development and Ethics
- 9.2.12 E. Consumer and Personal Finance Skills
- 9.2.12 F. Safety

III. Learning Objectives

1. Describe the developmental growth patterns of infants, toddlers, preschool, school age and adolescent children
2. Apply the principles of growth and development in directing and guiding activities for young children (art, science, music, free play (learning centers), story time, circle time, pre-reading/writing/math, gym, cooking, etc.)
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the meaning and functions of play and apply this understanding to the selection of activities for children
4. Identify safety and health hazards for children
5. Plan and prepare nutritious foods for children
6. Identify and evaluate resources for educating children
7. Identify social services available to aid adults and children concerning family issues
8. Identify career opportunities in the field of child development and child care
9. Discuss various kinds of families, the importance of families and explain how families can be strengthened
10. Describe the changes that parenthood brings, and the responsibilities that are involved
11. Discuss parenting skills and explain the importance of effective discipline
12. Explain the processes of conception, pregnancy, and birth, and describe the basic needs of a newborn and explain how their needs can be best met.
13. Describe the stages of prenatal development and identify factors which influence healthy development.

IV. Essential Questions (The open-ended, provocative questions that help frame inquiry)

- How can studying child development help you interact with children?
- What factors influence growth and development?
- How do heredity and environment interact to shape an individual?
- How has recent brain research enlightened people's knowledge of child development?
- Can you relate happening of your life to any of the major principles of growth and development?
- Why is there a larger demand for childcare and early care and educators?
- Of the many teachers you have had through your educational career so far, who stands out as having made the greatest impact in your life? Why?
- Why does teaching carry a tremendous responsibility?
- What are some of the traits you have in common with successful educators?
- How can you contribute to help the children achieve the goals of our enrichment program *Kinder Cubs*?
- Why is it important to assess the curriculum?
- Why is play considered "the work of the child?"
- What can we learn about a child through his or her stage of play?
- Thinking back to your early childhood years, what activities do you remember as bringing the most enthusiasm and pleasure?
- What activities as a child did you want to repeat over and over? Why?
- What can parents and other adults do to keep children healthy and safe, and how can parents treat children's illnesses and injuries when they do occur?
- What do we learn through our observations of children?
- How has guidance helped you to develop into a secure and independent individual?
- How does a teacher's personality affect the behavior of children?
- How will knowing about areas and principles of development help you in working with children?
- What is theory, how is it developed, and how does it reach wide acceptance in its field?
- How could the following the old adage "children should be seen and not heard" have kept older generations of parents from contributing to the development of their children?
- What are some practical guidelines to educate and care for children based on some of the theories of development?
- What are positive and negative changes in society that affect families today?
- How do the roles and responsibilities change over the years for a family? What challenges is your family facing at this time?
- What are common characteristics that healthy families share?
- In what ways do family relationships affect children?
- Why is it important to value cultural diversity?
- Why does the family continue to be the basic unit of society?
- What environmental influences effect prenatal development? Do we have the ability to control the influences?
- Why is it important for infants to interact with others, learn to trust and to form attachments?
- What developmental changes take place during each of the following age groups: toddler, preschool and school age?

V. Key Performance and Benchmark Tasks

- Projects
- Observations
- Portfolio
- Lesson Plans
- Worksheets
- Quizzes
- Tests

VI. Units of Study

1. *Learning about Children*
2. *Teaching Children*
3. *Curriculum of Early Childhood Education: Art and Creativity, Dramatic Play, Storytelling, Math, Science, Social Studies, Writing, Cooking, Cooking, and Music & Movement*
4. *Observing Children: A Tool for Assessment*
5. *Guiding Children*
6. *Principles and Theories of Child Development*
7. *Prenatal, Newborn (Neonate) and Infant Development*
8. *Toddler, Preschooler and School-Age Development*
9. *Children's Health: Safety, Wellness, First Aid and Emergencies*
10. *Careers Working with Children*

VII. Instructional Materials

Required resources and materials:

- Student textbook, Child Development: Early Stages through Age 12 by Cilia Anita Decker (2011, The Goodheart-Wilcox Company, Inc.)

Supplemental resources and materials:

- Teacher's Textbook, Working with Young Children by Judy Herr (2012, Seventh Edition, Goodheart-Wilcox Company, Inc.)
- Teacher's Resource Guide, Working with Young Children (2012)
- Teacher's Resource Guide, Child Development: Early Stages through Age 12 (2011)
- Student Workbook, Working with Young Children (2012)
- Student Workbook, Child Development: Early Stages through Age 12 (2011)
- Internet

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