Course Description

Provides experiences in content, methods, and materials for the development of math, science, and social studies skills in children. Emphasis will be on developing strategies for using various resources to facilitate children’s construction of knowledge. Addresses strategies for intervention and support for children with special needs and English Language Learners. Lecture 2 hours. Laboratory 2 hours. Total 4 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

To develop the student's skills in preparing, presenting, and evaluating preschool activities in the areas of developing math, science and social studies concepts. The course is designed for educators teaching children in the early childhood age range.

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

Functional literacy in the English language; reading at the 12th grade level.

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- Describe the developmental characteristics of children as they relate to the areas of math, science, and social studies.
- Identify materials and procedures for constructing knowledge in the areas of math, science, and social studies for children.
- Design math, science, and social studies lessons and materials for children based on assessment data.
- Develop lessons and activities which differentiate instruction for children whose development is atypical or exceptional in the areas of math, science, and social studies.
- Design and apply assessment strategies for math, science, and social studies activities.
- Identify the role of culture in learning math, science, and social studies.
- Identify appropriate learning environments that foster exploration in the areas of math, science, and social studies.
- Identify and apply learning standards as they relate to math, science, and social studies: 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

- The developmental progression of concept building in math, science and social studies.
- The importance of working with families to support children’s development and success.
- Individualization of instruction for children through assessment.
- Making use of community resources in programming for young children.
- Adapting environments and materials for children’s individual needs.