

NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
CHD 120 – INTRODUCTION TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (3 CR.)

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/Corequisites

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

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
- l) Identify and apply appropriate learning standards as they relate to early childhood education

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
- d) Definition of early childhood inclusion in regards to: access, participation, and support