

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for ECE 50

EARLY CHILDHOOD PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

Effective: Fall 2018

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

ECE 50 — EARLY CHILDHOOD PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES — 3.00 units

Historical context and theoretical perspectives of developmentally appropriate practice in early care and education. Examines the role of the early childhood educator, identification of best practices for environmental design, curriculum, and teaching strategies. Explores constructive teacher-child interactions and relationships, the role of the family in education, culture and inclusion, professional ethics, career pathways and professional standards.

3.00 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Letter Grade

Discipline:

- Child Development/Early Childhood Education

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Expected Outside of Class Hours:	108.00
Total Hours:	162.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Describe the historical development of various group care systems for all young children
- Define and describe the theories, philosophies, goals, objectives and methods associated with contemporary group care and educational systems as related to developmentally appropriate practices for all young children with typical and atypical development in a play based environment
- Examine the value of play as a vehicle for developing skills, knowledge, dispositions and strengthening relationships among young children
- Describe children's developmental stages as it relates to developmentally appropriate practices
- Explain the licensing and educational requirements of working in early childhood education and the potential for employment in the field
- Describe how culture influences early childhood programs and practices
- Describe guidance and positive communication strategies which promote children's social competence in a caring community
- Identify strategies to promote communication with English learning families
 - Identify program adaptations which may be needed to support children with diverse abilities
- Analyze the relationship between observation, planning, implementation and assessment in developing effective teaching strategies and positive learning and development
- Document written objective observations based on specific criteria which informs curriculum
- Use environmental rating instruments
- Explain the professional standards of early care and education and importance of establishing relationships with coworkers, families, children and the professional community
- Develop a personal and professional philosophy using a theoretical perspective and Developmentally Appropriate Practices (DAP)

V. CONTENT:

- Historical context of group care and educational systems
 - Social and psychological perspectives on development
 - Factors increasing the demand for early childhood care and education
 - Local, state, and federal programs for all young children
 - Programs for children with exceptional needs
 - Present status of group care and educational systems
 - The role of effective advocacy on early care and education issues
- Philosophy, goals, objectives, and methods associated with quality group care and education systems
 - Theoretical perspectives
 - Developmental basis of early childhood education

3. Quality care fulfills physical, social, emotional and cognitive needs of all young children
4. Developmental needs of various age groups (infants, toddlers, preschool, school-age)
5. Ethical considerations
6. Diversity, multicultural and inclusion elements of contemporary care and education settings
7. Elements of quality early education include relationship building, social skills, physical development, early literacy, math, science, and other cognitive skills in a play based environment
8. Teaching strategies which reflect developmentally appropriate practices
- C. Licensing requirements, educational, and professional development opportunities
 1. Childcare centers and family childcare homes
 2. Meeting American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements
 3. Childcare professionals
 - a. Employment in private centers, profit and for profit
 - b. Employment in state and federally funded programs
 4. Personal rights of children, families and employees
- D. Guidance and discipline sounds punitive
 1. Motivation of behavior and misbehavior
 2. Communication and active listening
 3. Positive guidance and pro-social behavior
 4. Conflict resolution
 5. Effects of environment on behavior and learning
- E. Program philosophies and orientations
 1. Overview of various program approaches
 2. Elements of differing programs
 3. Criteria for evaluating quality programs
 4. Ethical considerations for children, families, and educators
- F. Anti bias perspective, cultural diversity, and inclusion
 1. Differing cultural perspectives on child rearing practices
 2. Sensitivity and appreciation of personal and cultural differences
 3. Maintaining communication with English language learning families and children
 4. Awareness of children with exceptional needs and program adaptations
- G. Observation
 1. Identifying elements of objective observation
 2. Opportunities to practice in the field
 3. Practice in completing a thorough, objective, written report
 4. Interrelationship of planning, observation and assessment
- H. Environmental Rating Instruments
 1. Tools available to evaluate/assess quality early care and education settings
 2. Elements of quality environments, interactions and relationships
 3. Assess support for staff, families, and children
- I. Early Care and Education as a Career
 1. Career ladder
 2. Child Development Permit
 3. Professional organizations
 4. NAEYC Code of Ethical Behavior
 5. Professional opportunities
 6. Collaboration with coworkers and families
 7. Personal and professional philosophy

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Student Presentations** -
- B. **Observation and Demonstration** -
- C. **Written exercises and case studies** -
- D. **Lecture** - Lecture, discussion, cooperative learning groups, observations, interviews, reports, hands-on-learning activities to demonstrate and accommodate a variety of teaching/learning styles
- E. **Guest Lecturers** - Community resources/guest speakers
- F. **Research** - Student research of relevant topics
- G. **Audio-visual Activity** - Media such as videos or internet search

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Reading
 1. Read selections from Developmentally Appropriate Practices and Here They Come, Ready or Not.
 - a. Compare the basic philosophical underpinnings of each.
 2. Read selected handouts about behaviors of young children and conduct an individual study.
 - a. Compare the results.
- B. Writing and problem solving
 1. Observe and write evaluations of early childhood settings and/or children.
 2. Using observation guidelines provided by the instructor, observe a child and identify the child's strengths, language use, social-emotional development, physical skills and interests the child displays.

VIII. EVALUATION:

- A. **Methods**
 1. Exams/Tests
 2. Quizzes
 3. Papers
 4. Class Participation
 5. Final Performance
- B. **Frequency**
 1. Quizzes weekly on reading assignments
 2. Midterm exam
 3. 3 reflection papers
 4. 2 written observations in an early childhood setting
 5. Weekly (or each module) participation
 6. Final or final project

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Essa, Eva. *Introduction to Early Childhood Education*. 7th ed., Cengage Publishing, 2014.
2. Kathryn, Browne, and Anne Gordon. *Beginnings and Beyond: Foundations in Early Childhood Education*. 10th ed., Cengage

- Publishing, 2017.
3. Feeney, Stephanie, Eva Moravcik, and Sherry Nolte. *Who Am I in the Lives of Children? An Introduction to Early Childhood Education*. California ed., Pearson Custom Printing, 2016.
 4. Bredekamp, Sue. *Effective Practices in Early Childhood Education: Building a Foundations*. 3rd ed., Cengage, 2017.
 5. California State Preschool Learning Foundations, Available at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/documents/preschoollf.pdf>
 6. California State Infant/Toddler Learning & Development Program Guidelines, Available at:
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/documents/itguidelines.pdf>

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: