

Child Development 240
Observation and Assessment Skills

Credit Hours: # 3

Scheduled hours per week

Online

Catalog Course Description:

Focuses on the various tools and assessments for children ages birth through age 5 years. Includes the role of assessment and documentation in curriculum development and individual learning goals and objectives.

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: 10 Hours of Field Experience

Course learning Outcomes:

1. Identify a variety of observation and assessment strategies for studying the development of infants, toddlers and preschool children. (NAEYC Standard 3)
2. Identify current issues in the assessment of infants, toddlers, and preschool children. (NAEYC Standard 3)
3. Understand how to summarize and interpret observation data to assess children and programs. (NAEYC Standard 3)
4. Apply observational data to plan meaningful curriculum for individual children and programs. (NAEYC Standards 3, 5)
5. Develop formats for documenting, sharing and explaining observations and assessment practices and information to parents and colleagues. (NAEYC Standards 2, 3, 4)
6. Develop strategies for family partnerships in assessing young children. (NAEYC Standards 2, 3, 4)
7. Record observations of infants, toddlers, and preschool children in an early childhood environment. (NAEYC Standard 3)
8. Utilize a variety of authentic assessment practices. (NAEYC Standard 3)
9. Examine the West Virginia Early Learning Standard Framework Birth to Five. (NAEYC Standards 1, 5)

Topics to be studied:

- What role observation and assessment has in the early childhood classroom
- How young children should be assessed
- Use and type of standardized assessments for individual children and classrooms
- Using portfolio assessments
- Linking assessment to curriculum and learning goals and objectives
- Communicating with parents about the assessment process
- Culturally, physically, and cognitively sensitive strategies

Relationship of course to program or Discipline Learning Outcomes:

- Plan and implement developmentally appropriate curriculum based on knowledge of child development and educational theory with consideration for the multiple factors that influence child development.
- Initiate, sustain, and develop relationships with families and communities to build a respectful and reciprocal community of learners to support children.
- Select, use, and evaluate assessment techniques and strategies, such as observation and documentation.
- Identify as an early childhood professional and participate in the profession through commitment to the Code of Ethical Conduct, 110 professional organizations and professional development, and advocacy for children and families.

Relationship of Course to General Education Learning Outcomes:

Composition and Rhetoric Students illustrate a fundamental understanding of the best practices of communicating in English and meet the writing standards of their college or program-based communication requirements.	X
Science & Technology Students successfully apply systematic methods of analysis to the natural and physical world, understand scientific knowledge as empirical, and refer to data as a basis for conclusions.	
Mathematics & Quantitative Skills Students effectively use quantitative techniques and the practical application of numerical, symbolic, or spatial concepts.	
Society, Diversity, & Connections Students demonstrate understand of and a logical ability to successfully analyze human behavior, societal and political organization, or communication.	X
Human Inquiry & the Past Students interpret historical events or philosophical perspectives by identifying patterns, applying analytical reasoning, employing methods of critical inquiry, or expanding problem-solving skills.	
The Arts & Creativity Students successfully articulate and apply methods and principles of critical and creative inquiry to the production or analysis of works of art.	
5/3/2016	

Special projects or requirements of the course:

Portfolio Assessment that utilizes a variety of tools.
Child Study

Additional information: NA

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Date: October 14, 2017