



Central York School District

Early Childhood Education 1

Overview

Grade Level: 9-11

Course Description:

This course is designed for students interested in pursuing a career in early childhood. It focuses on creating positive environments and learning experiences for children from ages 3 through 5. Students will learn about developmental milestones within the areas of development for a child. Students will have opportunities to work with children. Students who successfully complete this course will become eligible for an experience in the Early Childhood Education Lab or a focused content elective.

Course Big Ideas:

- Areas of development throughout early childhood.
- Developmentally appropriate practices for working with children.

Course Essential Questions:

- How do children grow, learn, and develop from 2 years through early elementary years?
- How can understanding child development improve teaching and interactions with children?
- Why is developmentally appropriate practice essential in early childhood education?
- How does play support all areas of development throughout early childhood?
- How can educators create safe, supportive, and engaging environments for all children?
- How do theories and research in child development guide effective teaching practices?

Course Competencies:

- Identify and describe physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development across early childhood stages.
- Compare developmental milestones across age levels.
- Apply knowledge of development to real-life scenarios.
- Design developmentally appropriate activities and lessons.
- Evaluate activities, books, toys, schedules, routines, etc., for developmental appropriateness.
- Explain, compare, and apply major child development theories and theorists.
- Identify positive behavior guidance strategies appropriate for developmental stages.
- Conduct objective child observations using appropriate methods.

Course Assessments:

- Rubrics.
- Completed assignments.
- Formative assessments.
- Summative assessments.



Central York School District

Early Childhood Education 1

Grade Level: 9-11

Unit 1: Areas of Development

Time: 1 week

Standards:

PA Academic Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences

- PA 11.4.9-12.B Demonstrate integration of academic standards that address language, culture, learning styles, and early childhood experiences.

Know:

- The four areas of development are physical, intellectual/cognitive, emotional, and social.
- The difference in gross motor and fine motor skills.
- The reason for studying children.

Understanding/Key Learning:

- The four developmental domains are interconnected and influence one another.
- Factors such as heredity, environment, culture, and experiences influence development.
- Unmet developmental needs can affect learning, behavior, relationships, and overall well-being.
- Knowledge of child development helps adults create safe, supportive, and engaging environments.
- Understanding developmental stages allows adults to set realistic expectations for children.

Do:

- Identify the areas of development.
- Describe examples of each area of development: physical, cognitive, emotional, & social.
- Analyze the importance of each area being successfully met.
- Construct personal examples of each area of development.

Unit Essential Questions:

- What are the four areas of development and examples of each?
- Why is it important to study children?
- What developmental traits are important when understanding children?
- How can unmet developmental needs affect a child's growth and learning?

Lesson Essential Questions:

- How are the four areas of development connected to one another?
- What activities can support development in each developmental domain?
- How do gross motor skills differ from fine motor skills?
- How does understanding child development help caregivers and teachers meet children's needs?
- What happens when children have limited opportunities to develop language skills?
- What happens when children have limited opportunities for physical development?
- How can unmet social-emotional needs affect a child's behavior and learning?

Materials/Resources:

- PowerPoint

- <https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/playdough-power>
- Playdoh

Vocabulary:

Physical
Cognitive

Fine Motor
Emotional

Gross Motor
Social

Intellectual

Assessments:

- Life Map
- Areas of Development Quiz



Central York School District

Early Childhood Education I

Grade Level: 9-11

Unit 2: Theory

Time: 1-2 weeks

Standards:

PA Academic Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences

- PA 11.4.9-12.A Demonstrate the integration of theories of child development and their impact on parenting and childcare.
- PA 11.4.9-12.B Demonstrate integration of academic standards that address language, culture, learning styles, and early childhood experiences.

Know:

- Child development theories and theorists: Jean Piaget, Lev Vygotsky, Maria Montessori, Howard Gardner, Erik Erikson, & Benjamin Bloom.
- Key concepts and stages within each theory.
- Learning styles of theories.

Understanding/Key Learning:

- The difference between a theory and a theorist.
- Child development theories provide different perspectives for understanding how children grow and learn.
- Child development theories provide a framework for understanding development at different stages of life.
- Developmental theories help explain patterns of growth, behavior, and learning across the lifespan.

Do:

- Identify key theories and explain key principles of their theories.
- Apply theories to classroom learning.
- Compare and contrast major child development theories.
- Apply developmental theories to classroom and childcare settings.
- Design developmentally appropriate learning experiences based on theoretical principles.
- Create a plan for a Montessori-style classroom.

Unit Essential Questions:

- How do child development theories help us understand how children grow and learn?
- Why is it important for educators and caregivers to understand child development theories?
- How do developmental theories influence education?
- How do different theorists explain children's growth, learning, and behavior?
- How can developmental theories be used to create effective learning environments for children?

Lesson Essential Questions:

- What is a theory, and why is it important?
- How do theorists help us understand child development?
- How can scaffolding help students to understand material?
- How do children's thinking skills change as they grow?
- What are the key principles of a Montessori classroom?

- How does successfully resolving developmental stages impact future growth?
- How can Gardner's theory influence how we prepare activities for children?
- How do learners move from basic knowledge to higher-level thinking?

Materials/Resources:

- Powerpoint
- Videos

Vocabulary:

Theory	Conservation	Object Permanence	Zone of Proximal
Theorist	Scaffolding	Intelligences	Development
Facilitate	Understand	Apply	More Knowledgeable Other
Remember	Evaluate	Create	Logical-mathematical
Analyze	Bodily-Kinesthetic	Musical	Spatial
Naturalist	Intra-personal	Interpersonal	
Linguistic			

Assessments:

- Completed assignments
- Formative assessment



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Early Childhood Education 1

Grade Level: 9-11

Unit 3: Two-Year-Olds

Time: 2 weeks

Standards:

PA Academic Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences

- PA 11.3.9-12.D Analyze strategies that promote human growth, development, and well-being.
- PA 11.4.6-8.A Identify child guidance practices for each stage of child development.
- PA 11.4.6-8.B Identify learning activities that meet the developmental needs of learners.
- PA 11.4.9-12.B Demonstrate integration of academic standards that address language, culture, learning styles, and early childhood experiences.
- PA 11.4.9-12.C Analyze developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive practices to evaluate early childhood education providers and services.
- PA 11.4.9-12.D Analyze current issues in health and safety affecting children at each stage of child development.
- PA 11.4.9-12.E Identify characteristics of quality literature for children that develop the child's imagination, creativity, reading, and writing skills.

Know:

- Developmental physical milestones of a 2-year-old.
- Developmental cognitive milestones of a 2-year-old.
- Developmental emotional milestones of a 2-year-old.
- Developmental social milestones of a 2-year-old.
- Appropriate learning styles and intelligences.
- Appropriate play strategies of a 2-year-old.
- Appropriate behavior techniques.

Understanding/Key Learning:

- Children develop at different rates while following general developmental patterns.
- Play is a primary way 2-year-olds learn and develop new skills.
- Positive guidance techniques help toddlers develop self-control and appropriate behavior.
- Understanding developmental milestones helps caregivers and educators create safe, supportive, and engaging environments for children.

Do:

- Compare and contrast 18-month, 2-year, and 2 ½ year developmental milestones.
- Identify examples of different learning styles of 2-year-olds.
- Construct a plan for a toy for a 2-year-old following all areas of development.
- Explain social and emotional milestones for 2-year-olds.
- Analyze toys for their appropriateness.

Unit Essential Questions:

- How does understanding the developmental milestones of a 2-year-old help caregivers and educators meet children's needs?
- How do development, play, learning, and behavior work together to support a 2-year-old's growth?

- What experiences best support the healthy development of a 2-year-old child?
- How can knowledge of child development help adults create developmentally appropriate environments for toddlers?

Lesson Essential Questions:

- How do 2-year-olds learn through exploration and play?
- Why is play important for a 2-year-old's development?
- What types of play are developmentally appropriate for toddlers?
- How does play support learning in all developmental domains?
- What physical milestones are typical for a 2-year-old?
- What emotional milestones are typical for a 2-year-old?
- What social skills begin to emerge?

Materials/Resources:

- Powerpoint
- Toys

Vocabulary:

Intelligence	Incidental learning	Trial and error learning	Imitation learning
Directed learning	Negativism	Temper tantrum	Parallel play
Milestone			

Assessments:

- Completed assignments
- Summative assessment



Central York School District

Early Childhood Education 1

Grade Level: 9-11

Unit 4: Preschoolers

Time: 10 weeks

Standards:

PA Academic Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences

- PA 11.3.9-12.D Analyze strategies that promote human growth, development, and well-being.
- PA 11.4.6-8.A Identify child guidance practices for each stage of child development.
- PA 11.4.6-8.B Identify learning activities that meet the developmental needs of learners.
- PA 11.4.9-12.B Demonstrate integration of academic standards that address language, culture, learning styles, and early childhood experiences.
- PA 11.4.9-12.D Analyze current issues in health and safety affecting children at each stage of child development.
- PA 11.4.9-12.E Identify characteristics of quality literature for children that develop the child's imagination, creativity, reading, and writing skills.

Know:

- Developmental physical milestones of a preschooler.
- Developmental cognitive milestones of a preschooler.
- Developmental emotional milestones of a preschooler.
- Developmental social milestones of a preschooler.
- Appropriate learning styles and intelligences for preschoolers.
- Appropriate behavior techniques for preschoolers.
- Appropriate reading strategies for preschoolers.
- Developmentally appropriate strategies for teaching preschoolers.
- Observation styles for successful observations of preschoolers.
- Effective communication with a preschooler.
- Signs of a preschooler feeling unwell.
- Appropriate safety procedures for preschoolers.
- Appropriate schedules, transitions, and routines of preschoolers.

Understanding/Key Learning:

- Preschoolers learn in different ways, and instruction should reflect a variety of learning styles and multiple intelligences.
- Positive behavior guidance techniques support preschoolers in developing self-regulation, independence, and social skills.
- Reading to preschoolers should be engaging, interactive, and developmentally appropriate.
- Developmentally appropriate teaching strategies are based on children's age, abilities, interests, and developmental stages.
- Observation is a key tool in understanding children's development, behavior, and learning needs.
- Effective observation requires one to be objective, pay attention to detail, and document behaviors without bias.
- Clear, simple, and positive communication helps preschoolers understand expectations and express their needs.
- Recognizing signs of illness in preschoolers is essential for maintaining health and safety in order to prevent the spread of illness.

- Children learn best in environments that are safe, structured, and responsive to their developmental needs.
- The importance of consistent routines, transitions, and schedules in the preschool classroom.

Do:

- Compare and contrast the 3 and 4-year-old areas of development.
- Create multiple learning centers.
- Observe a child following proper observation procedures.
- Read aloud to children with an interactive activity.
- Identify proper guided behavior techniques.
- Evaluate different schedules, transitions, and routines.

Unit Essential Questions:

- How can understanding preschoolers' development help educators create safe, supportive, and effective learning environments?
- What does developmentally appropriate teaching look like in a preschool classroom?
- How does play support learning in early childhood?
- Why is observation important in understanding preschool development?
- Why is simple, clear, and positive language important for young children?
- How does reading to children promote language development?

Lesson Essential Questions:

- What are positive and developmentally appropriate behavior guidance strategies for preschoolers?
- How can adults help preschoolers develop self-control, social skills, and independence?
- What reading strategies best support young children's engagement and comprehension?
- How do teachers adapt instruction to meet individual needs?
- What are effective ways to observe and document children's behavior and learning?
- How can observations be used to improve teaching practices?
- How do routines and structure help keep children safe?
- What are appropriate techniques for communicating with young children?
- How are developmental milestones integrated through various subjects?
- How can we use preschool standards to form age-appropriate, engaging lessons?
- What are common childhood illnesses, and how can we stop the spread of germs in preschool?

Materials/Resources:

- Books
- Powerpoints
- Panther Preschool

Vocabulary:

Classification	Rote counting	One-to-one	Conservation
Centration	Rational counting	correspondence	Self discipline
Seriation	Active listening	Positive reinforcement	Learning centers
Redirection	Milestone	Standards	Anecdotal record
Tallies	Diversity	Timed sampling	Checklist
Narrative	Confidentiality		

Assessments:

- Completed assignments
- Formative assessment
- Summative assessment



Central York School District

Early Childhood Development I

Grade Level: 9-11

Unit: Early Elementary

Time: 2-3 weeks

Standards:

PA Academic Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences

- PA 11.4.9-12.A Demonstrate the integration of theories of child development and their impact on parenting and childcare.
- PA 11.4.9-12.B Demonstrate integration of academic standards that address language, culture, learning styles, and early childhood experiences.
- PA 11.4.9-12.C Analyze developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive practices to evaluate early childhood education providers and services.
- PA 11.4.9-12.D Analyze current issues in health and safety affecting children at each stage of child development.
- PA 11.4.9-12.E Identify characteristics of quality literature for children that develop the child's imagination, creativity, reading, and writing skills.
- PA 11.4.9-12.F Demonstrate skills for building and maintaining positive collaborative relationships with children, youth, and adults in their family, school, and community environments.
- PA 11.3.9-12.E Analyze career paths opportunities for employment, entrepreneurial endeavors, and emerging careers within family and human services.

Know:

- Current issues facing early elementary children.
- Physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development for early elementary children.
- Age-appropriate learning techniques for early elementary children.
- Age-appropriate teaching strategies for early elementary children.
- Age-appropriate behavior strategies for early elementary children.
- Different careers working with children.

Understanding/Key Learning:

- Physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development continue to grow rapidly during the early elementary years and are closely connected.
- Understanding current issues affecting young children helps educators create supportive and responsive learning environments.
- Age-appropriate learning techniques are essential for engaging early elementary students and supporting their success.
- Play, hands-on learning, and active engagement are important components of effective instruction for young children.
- Positive behavior strategies help children develop self-regulation, responsibility, and social skills.
- Developmentally appropriate academics for the early elementary child.
- Various career options to work with children.

Do:

- Create an age-appropriate lesson plan.
- Construct a children's book.

- Create a parent newsletter.
- Research the importance of recess.
- Research careers working with children.

Unit Essential Questions:

- How can understanding the development and needs of early elementary children help educators create effective learning environments?
- Why is it important to use developmentally appropriate practices when teaching young children?
- How can educators respond to current issues affecting early elementary children in the classroom?
- What career paths are available for individuals who work with children?

Lesson Essential Questions:

- What learning techniques are most effective for early elementary students?
- How does hands-on and active learning support student success?
- Why is play still important in early elementary classrooms?
- What does developmentally appropriate teaching look like in early elementary classrooms?
- Why is engagement important for learning in young children?
- Why is teaching behavior skills an effective tool in the classroom?
- How does understanding child development improve academic planning?

Materials/Resources:

Powerpoints
Videos

Vocabulary:

Milestone
Positive reinforcement

Engagement
Hands-on learning

Curriculum
Empathy

Self-regulation
School readiness

Assessments:

- Completed assignments
- Formative assessment