

Mineral Area College

Home, School, and Family: ECE2040

Fall 2009

**Instructor: Patricia Fields
Department Chair: Patricia Fields
Career and Technical Division:
Dean G. Kennon**

COURSE TITLE: Home, School and Family
COURSE NUMBER: ECE2040
INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Patricia Fields

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Office Hours: Monday through Friday-3pm to 4pm
Office location: Arts and Science Building- Office #26
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I. Course Description:

The course explores the positive relationships and partnerships between the early childhood teachers, program staff, parents/families, and the community while working with children birth to eight years. The student gains experience in identifying with the current roles and diversity of parenting needs and expectations. The various techniques that teachers can use to involve parents and the community in the educational process of early care and education programs are explored. Informal and formal means of communication are discussed to include useful methods of including them in the DAP early care and education programs. Parents and teachers can collaborate to affect community policy and actions on family and children's issues that are needed to support families' efforts in parenting. Methods of including diverse families within the early care and education program to provide an open, receptive environment for all children to learn and develop.

II. Course Requirements:

Prerequisite course: It is strongly recommended that EDU130-Child Development be taken before this course. All developmental domain areas are used in the education of parents in explaining the child's development.

Three to five hours of observation/journaling of experiences in a pre-approved site are a requirement of the course. Remember to complete journal writings as they are assigned. Even though the journal is not due until the end of the semester, it will be more meaningful if the student completes the observation and journal writings as they are assigned. **YOU MUST HAVE THE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK TURNED IN AND A SITE APPROVAL BY THE INSTRUCTOR BEFORE COMPLETING ANY OBSERVATIONS.**

TO COMPLETE REQUIRED observations, it is imperative that the student always respect the daily schedule of the child care setting and planned activities taking place in the child care setting/classroom. It is up to the student to make arrangements with the lead classroom teacher to complete observations, etc. in order to complete assignments in a timely manner.

The student will be required to complete seven observations/journal assignments at an approved practicum site throughout the semester. A Criminal Background Check is required when working with children. The REQUIRED application and a copy of your Social Security card (front and back) are due to the instructor the first two weeks of the semester.

The student will begin a collection of their work (known as artifacts) completed throughout the child development studies leading up to the Associate of Applied Science in Child Development. The artifacts will be assigned throughout the semester as a part of their scheduled assignments. The student will be required to take a one-hour course prior to graduation titled, "Portfolio Artifacts". The student will need to save all artifacts collected throughout their child development studies for the one-hour capstone course.

III. Textbook Requirements

Home, School, and Community Relationships, 7th Edition_Gestwicki.
Effective Communication Techniques, Arnold.

Additional Materials

Kansas/Mo. Artifacts Notebook
DAP Activity Materials for final

IV. Course Objectives

- a. The student will define the family of today.
- b. The student will explore the diverse parenting roles.
- c. The student will identify the perspectives and brief history of family involvement, and how the community helps support that involvement.
- d. The student will identify the benefits of establishing positive teacher-family partnerships.
- e. The student will explore positive outcomes to the program through collaboration efforts between the teacher and family in order to affect community policy and actions.
- f. The student will experience planning and preparing a child's artifacts for a portfolio to be used as a parent education method during a parent/teacher meeting.
- g. The student will explore the benefits of home visits to the child, teacher, and family in the pedagogy approach to the whole child.
- h. The student will develop communication techniques to encourage family involvement and understanding of the early care and education program.

- i. **The student will examine ways to welcome and include all families and create a diverse, anti-cultural environment.**

V. Learning Experiences

- a. **Classroom discussion on related topics**
- b. **Individual and group activities**
- c. **Case studies**
- d. **Research/Reflection**
- e. **Application of Theory**

VI. Student Evaluation

- a. **Quizzes: 5 @ 20 points..... 100 pts.**
- b. **Featured Weekly Assignments: 12 @ 25 points... 300 pts.**
- c. **Write It Down Journal: 1 @ 50 points..... 50 pts.**
- d. **Final..... 50 pts.**
- e. **Kansas/Mo. Artifacts Notebook..... 50 pts.**
- f. **Final100 pts.**

Total Points Possible: 650 points

Final Grading Scale

92-100% = A

82-91% = B

72-81% = C

62-71% = D

VII. Special Policies:

A. Attendance

The instructor follows the Mineral Area College established attendance policy. The student is required to attend one-hundred and fifty minutes of class per week for fifteen weeks (Fall and Spring Semesters-eight weeks in the summer).

B. Special Needs: Please notify instructor of any modifications or adaptations to classroom instructional materials or personal health needs that may restrict your learning. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs.

C. Academic Honesty: Students who engage in dishonest acts such as plagiarism or other forms of cheating in meeting the requirements of this course will be notified by the instructor that they are receiving a “0” for the assignment and/or an “F” for the course. Students who wish to appeal the decision of the instructor on a matter of dishonesty may do so under the Procedural Policy for Disciplinary Action. (Under the policy, the student is subject to suspension from college for acts of dishonesty.)

Note: Plagiarizing also applies to completing course assignments.

I.e. The student is to summarize internet articles and cite the resource where the information was found. The student should always cite the text, web site addresses, etc. on EACH WEEKLY ASSIGNMENT. Failure to do so will result in a reduction of points.

The instructor reserves the right to schedule an on-campus meeting in order to determine the authenticity of the student's work. Students who wish to appeal the decision of the instructor on a matter of dishonesty may do so under the "Procedural Policy for Disciplinary Action". (Under that policy, the student is subject to the suspension from college).

VIII. Completing On-line Assignments

To access the web course:

1. The course is managed through Web-Ct: www.gatewayccc.org
2. The student should be able to log into the web-ct course the Saturday before classes begin on campus. If the student enrolls AFTER the first Monday of classes, please email the instructor at www.pfields@mineralarea.edu so the process can be started.
3. After logging into the web-ct course at the above web address, the student will enter the user name as follows: first initial of the first name and last name (all in lower case). I.e. pfields
4. The password is the same as the user name.
5. Once you are in the course you will have the option to change the password.

- If for some reason this does not work, please call the web-ct Help Desk at (866) 522-1472. You may need to be assigned a different user name and password.
6. You will “click” on the course name.
 7. This will bring you to the Home Page.
 8. The student is responsible to read ALL ICONS on the Home Page to gain a better understanding of how the course works.
 9. There are five icons the student will use each week to complete assigned work: Starting the Course; Calendar; Weekly Assignments; Discussion Board; and Course Information.

Welcome: To Home, School and Family, a course that prepares the early childhood provider/teacher to work with parents, family, and community in order to plan for a developmentally appropriate environment/program for children birth through eight years. Building trusting relationships and partnerships are important to the child’s overall well-being in the early care and education program. Community awareness of the DAP program will assist in building stronger partnerships needed to develop a stronger need in the community of quality care and education.

Course Content and Structure

Each week the assignment will include a discussion topic that will be the primary objective or study of the chapter.

The student will read the chapter to gain a better understanding of the assigned discussion topic. The student will post the discussion on the “Discussion Board”.

The discussion board is used as a “virtual” classroom discussion group.

The student will be required to respond to at least one other student’s posted topic. This is an opportunity to engage in a professional, meaningful response and to build professional relationships with others in the group. As the students and instructor engage in discussion concerning the assigned topic each week, it provides an opportunity to discuss and explore both the chapter’s reading and a broader professional perspective of the classmates and assigned chapter materials. The student will have the opportunity to discuss and apply the learning with others in the class. This also provides an opportunity for the instructor to enhance the students’ understanding of course materials.

In addition to the discussion topic, the student will have “Featured Weekly Assignments” to complete. The assignments will vary in nature, but they are intended for application and use in the early care and education setting. Some of the weekly assignments lead up to the compilation of the semester project.

The semester project is used to evaluate the student’s understanding and application of the relationships and partnerships that can be developed with parents, families, and within the community. For more information, please see the home page icon, “Semester Project”.

Note: It is strongly recommended that the student read the chapter and engage in discussion before attempting the weekly assignment.

Completing Coursework for Credit

- 1. There is a Featured Weekly Assignment based on the chapter's reading each week (1 through 15).**
- 2. There is an assigned discussion and response to another student based on the chapter's reading each week (1 through 14).**
- 3. Semester Project: The student will be required to develop community resources and DAP materials needed to form positive, quality partnerships.**
- 4. On-campus Final: The date for the final is posted on the Home Page icon, "Calendar" the first two weeks of class. The student must attend the final or receive an "F".**

Performance and Participation

The student must remember this is a web class. The student is required to maintain weekly contact with the instructor through the Private Mail system within the web-ct course. If for some reason the student cannot access the web address, the student is to email the instructor at www.pfields@mineralarea.edu or (573) 518-2128. Failure to do so may result in the student being dropped from the course. This also includes communication from the student concerning technical or personal reasons for the assignment to be late. The communication must be received by the instructor the same week the assignment is due.

Keys for Success

The instructor values the importance of gaining knowledge in the developing child, and application of the development in the child's environment. Adults working with children can use this knowledge in planning a developmentally appropriate environment. The following provides an outline for the students' evaluation by the instructor and learning of the course materials.

- 1. Read chapter materials before attempting to post the weekly discussion and response and completing the featured weekly assignment.**
- 2. Read the weekly assignments in their entirety. If you have any questions or concerns about the assignment, email the instructor no later than Thursday to assure you receive help before the assignment is due on Saturday.**
- 3. Refer to calendar on Home Page for due dates of assignments. The instructor will not accept late work. The student will receive a "0" for the assignment regardless of why the assignment was late.**
- 4. Email the instructor if you are having difficulties in completing the scheduled work as soon as possible (the same week the assignment is due).**

NOTE: On-line courses require the student to be an independent learner who is well-disciplined in completing work within a seven day period. The comprehension of both materials and assignments are an important part of taking on-line courses. Please let the instructor know within the first two weeks if you are having difficulty. The instructor can meet with the student during scheduled office hours or arrangements can be made to meet at other times that are agreeable to both parties.