

Early Childhood Education I

Syllabus

» Course Overview

The Early Childhood Education course is designed to provide an overview of the expectations and roles of the early childhood educator. The course provides details about childhood development, health, nutrition, and guidance strategies to help students understand the exciting and unique opportunities that a career in early childhood education can offer. The course is intended to prepare students for challenges they may face, but to emphasize the rewards of being able to influence the life of a young child. The ability to offer support to children as they learn and grow is a point that is highlighted throughout each lesson.

» Course Outline by Module

Module 1	The Early Childhood Education Profession	Module 6	Methods of Guidance
Module 2	Planning a Safe, Clean, and Healthy Learning Environment	Module 7	The Influences of Nutrition, Environment, & Heredity
Module 3	Planning Food Service & Nutrition	Module 8	Current and Future Technology in Childcare
Module 4	Typical & Atypical Development	Module 9	Exploring Your State: Child Abuse & Neglect
Module 5	Observation & Recording Methods	Module 10	Exploring Your State: Rules and Regulations in Childcare

» Module Overview and Learning Objectives

| Module 1. The Early Childhood Education Profession

Welcome to the first module in Early Childhood Education! Let the exploration of this exciting and rewarding career begin. In this module, you will discover the various career opportunities that exist within early childhood education. You will identify the various requirements and benefits of each role. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to compare these roles to find the ones that may be the best fit for you and your goals.

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You will learn about the benefits that early childhood education providers give to the children, families, and communities they serve. Finally, you will review some of the history and evolution of the industry from the beginning to where it is today and even to where it's headed. Let's get started!

Learning Objectives: In this module, students will:

- Identify early childhood education career opportunities
- Compare roles and responsibilities of the childcare center team members
- Identify the important role childcare givers play in the development of each child in care
- Describe the need for quality childcare and the benefits to children, families, and communities
- Discuss the evolution of the childcare industry

| Module 2. Planning a Safe, Clean, and Healthy Learning Environment

Safety is by far the most important part of the job of anyone caring or providing services to children. This module will cover everything from identifying different types of fire extinguishers and how to use them to filling out incident reports for injuries and accidents. You will learn about the safe transport of children and the precautions that must be taken before and during transport. You will identify current best practices for developing hygiene routines. You will also begin to foster ideas to create engaging and positive practices of safety with all of the children you will serve so that they are a part of their own safety plan each and every day.

Learning Objectives: In this module, students will:

- Identify and describe characteristics of a safe, sanitary, healthy childcare environment.
- Describe ways to assist children with personal hygiene routines.
- Recognize potential safety and fire hazards and develop a procedure to prevent accidents.
- Identify and describe regulations for transporting children.
- Outline the steps for proper use of fire extinguishers (i.e.: students watch a video, observe someone else demonstrate, etc.).

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- Follow and understand how to complete an accident/incident form using established procedures.
- Identify and describe components of a playground safety checklist.
- Summarize best practices within the center to conserve environmental resources.
- Discuss methods to promote positive attitudes and skills for daily routines for children.

| Module 3. Planning Food Service & Nutrition

As children grow, their nutritional needs evolve. As an early childhood education provider, it is your responsibility to understand their nutritional needs and provide the appropriate types of food and nutrition for their growing bodies. It is also up to you to promote a healthy lifestyle in innovative ways by introducing them to new foods and healthy, sustainably-sourced ingredients. All of this should be done while working to make sure that any dietary restrictions are closely observed, especially with regard to allergies, food sensitivities, and foods that are to be avoided due to cultural or religious beliefs. It is a large undertaking that requires a lot of organization and planning, so you will explore some of the best practices and a variety of resources throughout this module.

Learning Objectives: In this module, students will:

- Identify the nutritional needs of infants through school age children (birth through age eight).
- Identify and plan nutritious snacks and meals for infants through school age children (birth through age eight).
- Describe safe and sanitary food service habits in assisting with mealtime routines.
- Identify foods that are potentially dangerous for young children's consumption (including common allergens like peanuts).
- Describe how to encourage positive food choices and good eating habits for toddlers through school age children.
- Use United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) current guidelines as a tool for planning nutritious meals.
- Identify guidelines for purchasing, receiving, storing, and safety of foods as defined in Department of Children and Families administrative rule.
- Recognize age appropriate nutrition education activities.

| **Module 4. Typical & Atypical Development**

When you hear the terms typical (or normal) and atypical, you may think of one being right and the other being wrong. That is not the case in terms of development. When you hear about typical and atypical development, it means that a child is or is not developing, on average, in the same manner and at the same rate as his or her peers. This development may refer to many things. It could refer to their physical size. It may refer to their ability to learn or process information. It may be related to their social or emotional development. It could be in regards to how they are developing their language and communicating ability. Development is measured using milestones. Generally speaking, milestones are markers to identify where a child should be at a particular age. When that child does not meet the milestone, their development may be considered atypical. Throughout this module, we will discuss a great deal of terminology around development and psychological theories. You will also learn about risk factors and how learning may be impacted by atypical development.

Learning Objectives: In this module, students will:

- Compare and contrast the characteristics of typical and atypical development.
- Describe the principles and stages of development.
- Describe the characteristic of children ages birth to eight in the following domains: physical development; approaches to learning; social and emotional; language and communication; and cognitive development and general knowledge.
- Discuss circumstances and factors that put a child at risk for developmental delays.
- Identify and describe theories of human development including cognitive psycho-social, socio-cultural, psychoanalytical, and behaviorist.
- Create a developmentally appropriate learning activity.

| **Module 5. Observation & Recording Methods**

You already use observation all the time in your personal life. As an early childhood educator, you will use observation daily in your professional life too. With a classroom full of early childhood learners, a constant awareness of what's happening around you is a

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requirement at all times! Even if you aren't doing it formally, you are always assessing situations. You will adjust your own behavior accordingly when, for example, you see that a child's reaction to you is not what you intended. As you observe, you will notice common things like a child falling or running out of paper while they are drawing. You will observe and monitor what needs to be done when it's time to put toys away and clean up. These are observations that help everyone's day run smoothly. Observation of other early childhood education practitioners can also be helpful to you as you learn and grow in your own career. You may do so informally just by noticing how a colleague sets up and works through an activity really well. You can use this as a model in your classroom and modify it to your own style. Observing students learning, at play, and interacting with one another provides a level of insight that could probably not be achieved with other methods. It's raw data that you are collecting. Throughout the module, you will learn techniques and tips to becoming an effective observer in your classroom.

Learning Objectives: In this module, students will:

- Identify observation techniques and methods used in a childcare setting.
- Discuss the differences between observations, screenings, developmental assessments, and developmental evaluations.
- Discuss the importance of including the family in the collection of information for observations.
- Identify the steps for conferring with parents when a developmental delay is suspected.
- Discuss the importance of confidentiality of child/family records.

| **Module 6. Methods of Guidance**

Young learners can be challenging. Remember that they are constantly stimulated by the world around them. They have brains that are absorbing information like a sponge. They have emotions that are as complicated as those of adults, without the developmental skills or language to know what to do with those emotions. These early learners deserve kindness and respect. As an early childhood educator, your role as a guide to help them maneuver and manage all of these new experiences and emotions. Discovering ways to encourage positive behavior through guidance techniques will be invaluable to you as an early childhood educator.

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Learning Objectives: In this module, students will:

- Identify and describe methods of guidance of children’s behavior at age-appropriate levels.
- Differentiate methods of direct and indirect guidance (i.e.: concepts of room arrangements, transitions, routines, etc.).
- Distinguish between appropriate/inappropriate methods of guiding behaviors by the childcare professional.
- Discuss the importance of communicating with families regarding expectations of children’s behavior (i.e.: NAEYC and DAP, etc.) guidelines.

| **Module 7. The Influences of Nutrition, Environment, & Heredity**

COVID-19 and the pandemic that followed taught us how quickly disease can spread. The number of cases grew at rates faster than the world was prepared to handle. A learning environment is a world in which students, teachers, and staff must exist every day. Imagine how quickly germs and disease could spread without proper precautions taken by everyone: teachers, staff, administration, students, and parents. There are many factors that cause children to be healthy vs. unhealthy. As an early childcare educator, you should understand what it looks like when a child is sick. Every precaution must be taken to prevent the child from becoming sicker and spreading illness to others in the learning environment.

Learning Objectives: In this module, students will:

- Identify characteristics of a healthy child.
- Identify and describe symptoms of childhood illness and communicable diseases.
- Identify the components of and perform a “10 second health check” for children.
- Describe ways in which the spread of disease in childcare settings can be prevented.
- Demonstrate how to communicate with parents who continue to send children to childcare when they are sick.
- Investigate current information on child nutrition, the environment, heredity and discuss their effect upon the development of a child.

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- Discuss how a child's health status influences development.
- Describe the importance of physical fitness to health status and development.

| Module 8. Current and Future Technology in Childcare

Technology undoubtedly already has a place in early childhood learning environments. Whether through the delivery methods of lessons and activities to how learners engage, various technology, software, and devices already live in early childhood learning environments. That is exciting and challenging. It is exciting because the possibilities for learning are practically limitless. The challenges can present themselves in ways such as finding technology that is age-appropriate for learners, and not relying on screen time as a substitute for other types of hands-on, real-life activities. Striking a balance may be the key to the successful implementation of technology in the early education environment.

Learning Objectives: In this module, students will:

- Demonstrate appropriate use of technology by childcare professionals (i.e.: online assessments, lesson plans, presentation software, etc.).
- Analyze appropriate uses of current technology in a childcare setting.
- Describe the use of robotic technology for young children.
- Evaluate the opportunities and challenges of "screen time" on young children.
- Discuss the pros and cons of video surveillance at childcare centers.

| Module 9. Exploring Your State: Child Abuse & Neglect

The lessons in this module contain information about the physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect of children. Some of the information you will learn will be upsetting and may trigger uncomfortable emotions. If you are unable to view or complete the readings or work within this module, please reach out to your teacher to discuss alternate activities.

If you are able to read through the module and complete the activities, please exercise self-care. Take the time that you need to take in the information and then step away from it until you are comfortable returning to it. Take breaks often and speak with trusted adults if you need help understanding what you read or managing the emotions you may experience.

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Learning Objectives: In this module, students will:

- Identify the most common physical and behavioral indicators of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect.
- List the factors, multiple forces, and most common risk factors for child abuse and neglect.
- Describe the characteristics of abusers.
- Discuss the impacts and effects of child abuse and neglect.
- Identify the examples of human trafficking and the physical and behavioral indicators associated.
- Describe physical abuse, physical neglect, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse as defined by your state's law.
- Discuss the data regarding statistics as they pertain to child abuse at state and national levels.
- Describe the legal requirement and protection provided to childcare workers in reporting suspected child abuse and neglect according to Florida law (ie. Mandatory reporting, etc.) or the state of residence. Identify state and local guidelines and procedures for reporting child abuse and neglect.
- Identify the necessary information for completing a mock report of child abuse and neglect and how to submit the report.
- Identify local community resources that provide help for the abused and the abuser.
- Recognize the reporting requirements of at-risk children (i.e.: children in protective services, human trafficking, etc.).

| Module 10. Exploring Your State: Rules and Regulations in Childcare

Within each state are different licensing requirements and regulations for different childcare and early childhood learning facilities. To establish a facility in a specific state, there are a number of criteria that must be met. Generally, there are rules on the maximum number of children that may be in a certain facility, guidelines for the person running the facility, health and safety inspections, and rules for attendance tracking and reporting. Some states have designated agencies that oversee early childhood education programs to make sure that these programs align with a child's development and can more easily

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track children's progress over time. There are issues that states are facing, especially as it pertains to everyone having access to quality childcare and early childhood education programs. You will learn about some of the proposed laws that are attempting to address these problems.

Learning Objectives: In this module, students will:

- Recognize the stakeholders in the childcare profession (i.e.: ELC, licensing, agencies, etc.)
- Identify the different types of childcare facilities and licensing requirements
- Identify the components of your state's statutes as they relate to areas of childcare standards
- Identify local and state licensing agencies and their responsibilities
- Identify local and state fire, safety, sanitation, and health regulations
- Identify minimum state standards for screening owners, operators, staff, and volunteers of childcare centers
- Identify and discuss current childcare issues and proposed laws and ordinances that govern state and local licensing and inspection of childcare facilities
- Identify information concerning child discipline in state rules
- Identify methods of compliance with rules and regulations governing childcare givers