



Northern York County School District

Curriculum Overview

Course: Life Stages: Toddler to Elementary Age

Grade Level: 9-12

Approval Date: January 2025

Length of Time: 90 Days

Course Description:

Following Family and Consumer Science (FCS) curriculum, this course explores the developmental milestones and unique challenges of children from toddlerhood to elementary age. Students will examine physical, cognitive, social, and emotional growth during these critical years, focusing on how these stages impact learning and behavior. Through interactive discussions, case studies, and hands-on activities, students will gain insights into effective strategies for supporting children's learning and development in various settings. The course emphasizes the importance of fostering a nurturing environment and building strong relationships with children to promote positive outcomes in early education and overall well-being.

Course Objectives:

Students will:

- Understand the impact of physical, cognitive, social, and emotional growth on learning.
- Identify common challenges faced by children in this age range.
- Explore effective strategies for supporting children's development in various contexts.
- Examine the role of play in early childhood education and its significance in learning.
- Evaluate various educational approaches and their effectiveness for young learners.
- Develop skills for creating inclusive and nurturing environments for children.
- Collaborate with peers to share insights and best practices in child development.

Related Standards:

National Family and Consumer Science Standards

- 4.0 Education and Early Childhood
- 6.0 Family
- 7.0 Family and Human Services
- 12.0 Human Development
- 15.0 Parenting

Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Career Education and Work

- 13.1.11.B Analyze career options based on personal interests, abilities, aptitudes, achievements and goals.

Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Reading in Science and Technology

- CC.3.5.11-12.C. Follow precisely a complex multi-step procedure when carrying out experiments, taking measurements, or performing technical tasks; analyze the specific results based on explanations in the text.

Pennsylvania Standards for Writing in Science and Technology

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CC.3.6.11-12.F. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including the self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation. 	
Units: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Child Development • Physical and Cognitive Development • Social and Emotional Development • Challenges in Early Childhood • The Role of Play in Learning • Building Inclusive and Positive Learning Environments 	
Concepts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holistic development: Children's growth involves interconnected physical, cognitive, social, and emotional dimensions. • Importance of relationships: Strong, supportive relationships are foundational to learning and development. • Play as a learning mechanism: Play is essential for exploration and skill development in education. • Cultural influences on development: Children's growth is shaped by their cultural backgrounds and environments. • Resilience and adaptability: Nurturing resilience helps children overcome challenges and thrive. • Lifelong learning: Early development lays the groundwork for continuous growth throughout life. 	Competencies: Students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate knowledge of key physical, cognitive, social, and emotional milestones for children from toddlerhood to elementary age. • Assess and interpret children's behaviors and developmental challenges effectively. • Create and implement engaging, play-based activities that promote learning and development. • Develop strategies to create inclusive environments that accommodate diverse learning needs and backgrounds. • Utilize evidence-based practices that align with children's developmental stages and individual needs. • Work effectively in teams to share insights and best practices in early childhood education.
Learning Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive Lectures • Case Studies: Analyze real-life scenarios involving children at various developmental stages to identify challenges and apply solutions. • Group Projects: Collaborate with peers to design and present developmentally appropriate lesson plans or activities for young children. • Observation and Reflection: Conduct observations of children in natural settings, followed by reflective writing to analyze behaviors and developmental progress. • Guest Speakers: Engage with professionals in early childhood education, psychology, or child development to share insights and 	Performance Tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent classwork assignments • Group classwork assignments • Research Projects • Group Projects • Presentations • Observations • Knowledge Checks

<p>experiences. Alternatively, students will research various professionals and their role in this field.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role-Playing Exercises: Engage in role-playing scenarios to practice building relationships with children and addressing common developmental challenges. • Independent research/projects: Explore various cultural perspectives on child development and education. • Field Trips: Visit in person local early childhood education centers or community organizations to observe and learn about diverse educational practices. Alternatively virtual observations will be available. 	
<p>Other Assessment Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-class participation • Child and Baby First Aid/CPR/AED Training (Certificate) • Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting in PA (Certificate) • Play and Learning in Early Childhood (Certificate, counts toward CDA (Child Development Associate) Credential). From: Pennsylvania Child Care Training Care Courses 	
<p>Textbook/Primary Resource: Title: Child Development: Early Stages Through Adolescence, 10th Edition, Author: Celia Anita Decker, Ed.D. , Julia McClannon, and Michelle McCoy, ISBN: 978-1-68584-228-4</p>	
<p>Supplemental Resource Materials: Online articles Online resources Teacher generated notes and presentations Teacher-generated activities</p>	