



Child Development 2/3 Curriculum

Board Approved: 02/19/2026

Course Information

**High School
Full Year**

Course Description:

Child Development II builds upon the foundation established in Child Development I, continuing the study of human development with a focus on children ages two to five. Throughout the semester, students will explore key topics such as child development theories, parenting responsibilities, child safety, and available childcare options. Emphasis will be placed on developing essential skills for engaging, teaching, and caring for preschool-aged children. Students will also design and implement developmentally appropriate activities to support children's learning and growth.

Note: Students who earn a "B" average or higher in both Child Development I and Child Development II may qualify for college credit at St. Charles Community College through articulation into the Early Childhood Education program. In addition, Child Development 2/3 is offered for Dual Credit through the University of MO St. Louis.

Transfer Goals:

- Students will demonstrate best practices and skills for parenting, caring for, guiding, and directing the development of children between the ages of 3-5.

Curriculum Standards: <https://www.leadfcsed.org/national-standards.html#/>

Curriculum Resource(s): Child Development. Early Stages Through Adolescence. 10th Edition. G-W Publishers

**priority standards indicated in bold*

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Unit 1: Developmental Stages

Timeframe: 2 Weeks- Ongoing

Unit Description: In this unit, students will learn how children grow and change from birth through adolescence. We will look at important child development theories and how they help us better understand and care for children. Students will explore the four main areas of development—physical, social, emotional, and intellectual—and learn what to expect at different stages.

The unit will also focus on how parents, families, and communities shape a child’s growth. Students will discuss how parenting changes over time, how culture and traditions are passed down, and how everyday actions can make a big difference in a child’s life. By the end of this unit, students will better understand what children need to grow into healthy, confident, and capable individuals.

Enduring Understandings:

- Development is a dynamic, complex, and interrelated process influenced by fundamental theories, diverse environmental conditions, and the critical roles of family and society.
- The principles of human development (physical, emotional, social, moral, and cognitive) are interconnected, requiring caregivers to analyze these interrelationships to provide effective support.
- Parenting practices, cultural traditions, and community resources collectively determine a child’s foundational growth and ability to meet societal expectations across the lifespan.

Essential Questions:

- How do universal principles of human growth and diverse environmental conditions shape a child’s development across physical, intellectual, social, and emotional domains?
- In what ways do major child development theories provide the framework for understanding, interacting with, and guiding children successfully?
- How do the expectations, roles, and responsibilities of parenting change across the lifespan, and what is the lasting impact of family and cultural structures on a child’s development?

Unit 1 Standards

STANDARD CODE	STUDENTS WILL KNOW, BE ABLE TO, AND UNDERSTAND:
4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can analyze developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive practices to plan for early childhood, education, and services.
12.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can analyze principles of human growth and development across the life span.
12.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can analyze conditions that influence human growth and development.

**priority standards indicated in bold*

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Unit 2: Creating Simulating Environments

Timeframe: 10 weeks- Ongoing

Unit Description: Students will learn strategies that support the healthy development of children ages 2 to 5. Students will learn to design safe, engaging, and age-appropriate activities that promote physical, intellectual, emotional, and social growth. Emphasis is placed on creating inclusive lesson plans, understanding developmental needs, and applying problem-solving skills to real-world early childhood settings.

Enduring Understandings:

- Effective caregiving and teaching require the deliberate design of responsive, safe, and stimulating environments that integrate curriculum to meet the diverse and individualized developmental needs of young children.
- Transferable skills in curriculum design are necessary to create inclusive, theme-based lesson plans that address physical, intellectual, emotional, and social growth for a diverse set of learners.
- Successfully addressing a child’s growth requires analyzing their abilities and individual differences and applying communication and problem-solving skills to manage behavior and support positive learning outcomes.

Essential Questions:

- How must professional educators apply developmentally appropriate practices and problem-solving skills to continuously adapt learning environments and activities to promote the holistic growth of every child?
- What strategies best support the healthy growth and development of young children, and how can activities be intentionally designed to promote growth in all developmental areas?
- How can educators select and implement activities that support children of different cultural backgrounds, individual abilities, and diverse needs?

Unit 2 Standards

STANDARD CODE	STUDENTS WILL KNOW, BE ABLE TO, AND UNDERSTAND:
12.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can analyze conditions that influence human growth and development.
12.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can analyze strategies that promote growth and development across the life span.
4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can analyze developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive practices to plan for early childhood, education, and services.
4.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can demonstrate integration of curriculum and instruction to meet developmental needs and interests of children, youth and adults, considering gender, ethnicity, geographical, cultural, and global influences.
4.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can demonstrate a safe and healthy learning environment for children, youth, and adults.
4.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can demonstrate skills for building and maintaining positive collaborative relationships with children, youth and adults in their family and community

**priority standards indicated in bold*

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	environments, considering gender, ethnicity, geographical, cultural, and global influences.
4.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I can demonstrate professional practices and standards related to working with children, youth and adults, including diverse populations.

priority standards indicated in **bold*

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Unit 3: Observing Children

Timeframe: 10 Weeks- Ongoing

Unit Description: This unit provides learners with the expertise to understand and facilitate children's growth across all developmental areas. It focuses on practical application through observation, assessment, and analysis. Participants will learn to identify typical developmental milestones and recognize deviations, applying various assessment methods to interpret children's growth. The unit covers both formal screenings and informal observation techniques, emphasizing the accurate and objective documentation of children's behavior. Ultimately, learners will be able to analyze individual children's abilities and needs, understanding how diverse factors influence their development. This unit is crucial for anyone involved with children, offering foundational knowledge for creating supportive environments.

Enduring Understandings:

- Objective observation and ethical documentation are foundational professional practices required to accurately interpret children's growth, identify developmental needs or concerns, and facilitate responsive support.
- The application of diverse assessment methods (formal and informal) is necessary for professionals to analyze progress, summarize developmental issues, and ensure they are meeting the needs of individual children.
- Accurate analysis of a child's abilities and needs informs the creation of supportive environments and interventions, demonstrating a core function of effective early childhood education.

Essential Questions:

- Why is systematic, objective assessment essential for accurately understanding a child's unique developmental trajectory?
- What assessment tools and documentation methods are most effective and ethical for observing and recording young children's behavior and progress in various settings?
- How does the interpretation of developmental data inform future educational and caregiving decisions to maximize a child's learning and growth?

Unit 3 Standards

STANDARD CODE	STUDENTS WILL KNOW, BE ABLE TO, AND UNDERSTAND:
4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can analyze developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive practices to plan for early childhood, education, and services.
7.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can demonstrate professional behaviors, skills, and knowledge in providing family and human services.
4.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can demonstrate professional practices and standards related to working with children, youth and adults, including diverse populations.
4.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can demonstrate integration of curriculum and instruction to meet developmental needs and interests of children, youth and adults, considering gender, ethnicity, geographical, cultural, and global influences.

**priority standards indicated in bold*

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Unit 4: Health, Safety, and Wellness

Timeframe: 1 Week- Ongoing

Unit Description: This unit focuses on protecting young children by equipping students with essential care and prevention skills. Students will learn and implement health and safety guidelines in childcare settings, including preventing illness and planning safe meals. A critical component is understanding, recognizing, and reporting child abuse and neglect, and knowing the available resources for help. The unit emphasizes creating safe, healthy environments—at home, school, and community—and how teaching healthy habits serves as proactive support for a child's positive development.

Enduring Understandings:

- Protecting children’s physical and emotional well-being requires adhering to legal and ethical health and safety regulations, implementing preventative strategies against illness and harm, and mobilizing community resources to support vulnerable families.
- Professional responsibility dictates the mandatory identification, documentation, and reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect, along with understanding the long-term effects on children and families.
- Maintaining safe, healthy school, work, and community environments requires analyzing available formal and informal support systems and implementing effective strategies to teach children lifelong health and safety habits.

Essential Questions:

- How do community resources—including formal support systems and informal networks—play a vital role in analyzing and supporting the overall well-being of families and children?
- What are the ethical and legal imperatives for recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect, and what resources are available to intervene and support affected families?
- How does adherence to state regulations and implementation of preventative health and safety practices contribute to a secure and supportive environment necessary for optimal child development?

Unit 4 Standards

STANDARD CODE	STUDENTS WILL KNOW, BE ABLE TO, AND UNDERSTAND:
12.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can analyze conditions that influence human growth and development.
12.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can analyze strategies that promote growth and development across the life span.
4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can analyze developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive practices to plan for early childhood, education, and services.
15.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can evaluate parenting practices that maximize human growth and development.
15.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can evaluate external support systems that provide services for parents.
4.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can demonstrate a safe and healthy learning environment for children, youth and adults.

**priority standards indicated in bold*

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4.6

- I can demonstrate professional practices and standards related to working with children, youth and adults, including diverse populations.

priority standards indicated in **bold*

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Unit 5: Childcare Options and Careers

Timeframe: 1 Week- Ongoing

Unit Description: This unit explores the critical decisions and diverse career paths within Early Childhood Education (ECE). Students will first learn to evaluate and select quality child care and services, considering the specific developmental needs of each child. This involves comparing different child care program types and analyzing how their educational focus and structure impact a child's learning, growth, and development. Furthermore, the unit introduces the various jobs and roles within the ECE field.

Enduring Understandings:

- The intentional selection of quality early childhood programs is crucial for supporting a child's development, as different care models fundamentally influence learning and growth.
- Successfully entering the fields of Early Childhood Education or Human Services requires analyzing career paths, education/training requirements, and professional roles to prepare for post-high school success and entrepreneurial opportunities.
- Lifelong learners leverage their knowledge of child development and community resources to advocate for and support children, families, and high-quality educational services.

Essential Questions:

- What essential criteria should families apply when choosing quality care and services for young children, and how does the inclusion of educational components impact a child's development?
- How does analyzing professional roles, training requirements, and entrepreneurial opportunities in early childhood and human services guide effective career planning and preparation?
- How do professionals in early childhood education and services demonstrate ethical and professional practices that maximize opportunities for employment and positively impact children and families?

Unit 5 Standards

STANDARD CODE	STUDENTS WILL KNOW, BE ABLE TO, AND UNDERSTAND:
4.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can demonstrate a safe and healthy learning environment for children, youth and adults.
4.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can demonstrate professional practices and standards related to working with children, youth and adults, including diverse populations.
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can analyze career paths within early childhood, education and related services.
7.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can analyze career paths within family and human services.

priority standards indicated in **bold*

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