

Course Title:	Child Development I
Grade(s):	9-12

Course Description
This course is a .5 credit course based on several assumptions: that learning about child development increases self-understanding; that parenting skills depend on your knowledge of child growth and development, coupled with appropriate attitudes and skills; that many of the same skills are needed by both parents and child care workers. The importance of child development from birth to age eight is emphasized and used in observations and hands-on activities within the classroom. Successful completion of both Child Development I and II will earn 3 college credits from CT State. This course is concerned with human development from prenatal through elementary education, with particular emphasis on the preschool child, including children with developmental delays, disabilities, language, and/or cultural differences. The early childhood developmental benchmarks through successive stages will be studied in depth. A minimum of 10 hours of field work is required for this course. ECED courses are aligned with the following standards: CT State Core Knowledge and Competencies (CKC), Division of Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC), Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE), National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). * denotes CT State learning outcomes.
Approved Curricular Materials/Textbook(s)
<i>Child Development: Early Stages Through Age 12</i> by Celia Decker

Unit Title	Unit Description (Include Unit Objectives)	Unit Pacing
Unit 1: Children in Today's World	In this unit, students examine child development by understanding young children's characteristics, the multiple influences on development, and recognize and create appropriate and inclusive learning environments where all young children thrive. Emphasis will be placed on facilitating meaningful opportunities to	3 weeks

	foster physical, social, emotional, language, cognitive, and aesthetic development for all children, including those with special needs, from birth through age eight. This unit focuses on: • Childhood and children • Parenthood, decisions, and actions • Teen parents, pregnancy, and decision making • Theorists views • Family units	
Unit 2: Prenatal Development and the Newborn	This unit explores the stages of early human development, beginning with prenatal development and continuing through birth and the newborn stage. This unit focuses on: • Prenatal development • Preparing for birth • The baby's arrival	3 weeks
Unit 3: Development from Birth to Age 4	This unit focuses on child development from birth to age four, exploring the major areas of growth during early childhood. Students examine physical, social-emotional, intellectual, and brain development, including how the brain functions and supports learning and behavior. Emphasis is placed on understanding developmental milestones and how each domain influences a young child's overall growth and well-being. This unit focuses on: • Physical development • Social-emotional development • Intellectual development • Brain development and functions *Know and promote child development by understanding young children's characteristics; the multiple influences on development; and recognize and create appropriate and inclusive learning environments where all young children thrive. *Facilitate meaningful opportunities to foster physical, social, emotional, language,	4 weeks

	cognitive, and aesthetic development for all children, including those with special needs, from birth through age eight.	
Unit 4: Guiding and Caring for Children	This unit explores the principles of guiding and caring for children, including factors that influence healthy development and caregiving practices. Students examine birth defects and their impact on child development, as well as essential skills for effective parenting. The unit also introduces early childhood care options and explores a variety of careers related to working with children. This unit focuses on: • Birth defects • Skills for effective parenting • Early childhood options • Careers relating to children *Know and promote child development by understanding young children's characteristics; the multiple influences on development; and recognize and create appropriate and inclusive learning environments where all young children thrive. *Facilitate meaningful opportunities to foster physical, social, emotional, language, cognitive, and aesthetic development for all children, including those with special needs, from birth through age eight.	2 weeks
Unit 5: Today's Families	This unit explores today's families and how they function and change over time. Students examine different family structures, the stages of the family life cycle, and how cultural differences influence family roles and traditions. This unit focuses on: • Family structure • Life cycle of a family • Cultural differences • Creating healthy families *Build, support, and engage family and community relationships through understanding and valuing diversity and all families and knowledge of the	3 weeks

	community; and create respectful, reciprocal relationships that involve families in their children's education and development.	
Unit 6: Parenting Styles and Strategies	This unit explores different approaches to parenting and the skills needed to support healthy child development. Students examine various parenting styles and how they influence children's behavior and growth. The unit also focuses on positive parenting strategies and decision-making skills, as well as the personal, emotional, and practical factors that contribute to readiness for parenting. This unit focuses on: • Parenting styles • Positive parenting strategies • Readiness for parenting	3 weeks
Unit 7: Understanding Brain Development	This unit explores how the brain develops and functions, with a focus on key structures and their roles in learning, behavior, and memory. Students examine how memory works and how experiences, including trauma, can have lasting effects on the brain. Emphasis is placed on understanding how to support healthy brain development. This unit focuses on: • Brain structures and functions • Memory • Trauma and lasting impacts • Building a healthy brain	2 weeks