J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary

Course Prefix and Number: CHD 120   **Credits:** 3

Course Title: Introduction to Early Childhood Education

Course Description: Introduces early childhood development through activities and experiences in early childhood, pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and primary programs. Investigates classroom organization and procedures, and use of classroom time and materials, approaches to education for young children, professionalism, and curricular procedures. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: To introduce the student to the field of early childhood education, including characteristics and needs of children in a variety of early care and education settings, the role of the professional, and requirements for employment in the field.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:
None

Student Learning Outcomes:
Upon completing the course, the student will be able to
a.   Describe and illustrate theoretical and historical bases of early childhood education;
b.   Classify and interpret developmental characteristics of young children from infancy through age eight;
c.   Compare and contrast physical, cognitive, social, and emotional differences among children from infancy through age eight when planning appropriate curriculum;
d.   Classify and critique characteristics of developmentally appropriate materials and activities;
e.   Explain the importance of guiding daily routines and group activities for young children;
f.   Practice techniques for creating and maintaining appropriate environments and curriculum which meet the needs of all young children;
g.   Articulate the importance of culture in planning classroom experiences, communicating with families, and guiding behavior of young children;
h.   Identify and explain basic health, safety, and nutritional needs of children;
i.   Discuss positive guidance and behavior management strategies;
j.   Describe the teacher's role in reporting suspected child abuse;
k.   Define and demonstrate professional ethics and confidentiality when working with children and families; and
l.   Identify and apply learning standards as they relate to early childhood education: the Virginia Foundation Blocks, the Child Development Milestones, the Virginia Standards of Learning, and Core Competencies for Early Childhood Professionals.

Major Topics to Be Included:
a.   Legal and professional requirements for employment in an early childhood setting
b.   Emerging professional identity and educational philosophy
c.   Professional organizations, periodicals and journals, and advocacy practices in the field of early childhood education

Date Created/Updated (Month, Day, Year): January 29, 2019