

## Department:

Early Childhood

## Course Description:

This course will examine the nature and characteristics of play and why play is important in a child's development. The course will cover the development domains and milestones that affect children's learning through play, as well as the social and cognitive stages of play and the behavior children exhibit in those stages. The course is instructor-led and interactive through discussions and assignments in course discussion boards.

## Course Competencies:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Describe the characteristics of play.
2. Explain why play is important in a child's growth and development.
3. Identify play problems and describe intervention strategies.
4. Communicate to others the importance of play for young children.
5. Apply knowledge and skills in assessment and evaluation of individual situations.

## Course Content:

- A. Introduction
- B. The Nature and Characteristics of Play
- C. Ages and Stages of Play
- D. Play and Learning
- E. Play and Behavioral Challenges
  1. When Children Have Difficulty
  2. Six Common Behaviors That Signal Play Problems
  3. Observation of Play
  4. Imaginatively Intervening
- F. The Role of the Teacher
- G. Promoting and Facilitating Play
- H. In Defense of Play

## Learning Assessments:

Course competencies will be assessed by use of discussions, discussion board posts, written assignments, pre-test and post-test.

## Instructional Materials:

Online instructional materials will be provided by the instructor.

**Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on  
Documented Disability or Medical Condition**

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

In order to begin the process all students **must** complete the "Disabilities Self-Identification Form" at this link:

<https://highlandcc.edu/pages/disability-services>.

This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.