

Department:

Early Childhood

Course Description:

This course will examine child development milestones and how to recognize signs of early childhood delays. The course will cover guiding terms, as well as laws and principles regarding special needs, including common questions and answers for childcare providers. The course will focus on observation, assessment, documentation, communication with families, and resources available to families and caregivers. This 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. List child development milestones and explain how to recognize signs of early childhood delays.
2. Explain the concept of inclusion.
3. Describe methods of including all children in their programs.
4. Plan and evaluate environments to help meet the needs of all children.
5. Explain the importance of communicating with families.
6. Describe ways to communicate with families concerning possible early childhood delays.
7. Describe strategies for assessment of young children and explain what behaviors should be recorded.

Course Content:

- A. Introduction
 1. Disability: An Introduction for Professionals
 2. Disability: An Introduction for Parents and Family Members
- B. Review of Child Growth and Development
 1. Child Growth, Development, and Milestones
 2. Early Recognition of Child Development Problems
 3. A Timeline for Typical Development
 4. Childhood Skills Checklist
 5. Milestone Moments
 6. Caring for Children with Special Needs
- C. Guiding Terms, Laws, and Principles
 1. American with Disabilities Act
 2. Questions and Answers Regarding the ADA

3. Early Childhood Inclusion
4. Understanding Early Intervention, Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) and Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)
5. Code of Ethics
- D. Caring for Children with Special Needs
 1. Characteristics of Visual Disabilities
 2. Characteristics of Hearing Disabilities
 3. Characteristics of Mental Disabilities
 4. Characteristics of Behavioral Disabilities
 5. Characteristics of Physical Disabilities
 6. Speech and Language Development
 7. Caring for Children with Chronic Illnesses
 8. Caring for Children with Challenging Behaviors
 9. Caring for Children with Allergies and Asthma
 10. Caring for Children with Attention Deficit Disorder
- E. Learning Environment and Curriculum
 1. Inclusion in Early Childcare Settings
 2. Natural Environments and Least Restrictive Environments
 3. Natural Environments that Support Early Intervention Services
 4. Teaching Independence with Daily Routines
 5. Making Accommodations
- F. Observations and Assessments of Children
 1. Observing and Recording Observations
 2. Assessment in Early Childhood
 3. A Guide to the Developmentally Appropriate Assessment of Young Children
 4. A Guide to Developmentally Appropriate Assessment of Young Children – Instructional Strategies
 5. Recording Observations
 6. Documentation Words and Phrases to Avoid and Words and Phrases to Use
- G. Families and Communities
 1. Welcoming All Children
 2. Communicating with Caregivers
 3. Resources Especially for Child Care Providers
 4. For Parents: Choosing Quality Care for Children with Special Needs
 5. Families Together

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.