

Child Development Program Description

The Child Development/Early Care and Education programs are specifically designed for persons interested in the education and care of young children. The AAS degree in Child Development prepares a student for employment in the field of early care and education of young children in both private and public child care centers. The CHD program includes a short certificate, long certificate, and a two-year degree. Certificates prepare students to work in child care programs as teacher's assistants or teachers in private child care settings. A two-year CHD degree prepares students for public or private facilities but is necessary for employment in the public schools as a teacher's aide in programs such as the state pre-K programs. An AS degree in Early Childhood education is a transfer degree that transfers to any four-year institution in the state. The AS in Early Childhood education that transfers to Athens State University is a hybrid of child development/early childhood education that prepares students for a career in either child development or early childhood education. The CHD program is offered completely on-line and easily fits into a student's busy work/family schedule.

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Child Development Course Descriptions

CHD 100. INTRODUCTION TO EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION OF CHILDREN

2 cr. hrs., Lec. 1, Lab. 2

This course introduces the child care profession including the six functional areas of the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential. Emphasis is placed on using positive guidance techniques, setting up a classroom and planning a schedule. Upon completion, students should be able to create and modify children's environments to meet individual needs, use positive guidance to develop positive relationships with children, and promote children's self-esteem, self-control and self-motivation.

CHD 201. CHILD GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

3 cr. hrs.

This course is a systematic study of child growth and development from conception through early childhood. Emphasis is placed on principles underlying physical, mental, emotional and social development, and on methods of child study and practical implications. Upon completion, students should be able to use knowledge of how young children differ in their development and approaches to learning to provide opportunities that support the physical, social, emotional, language, cognitive, and aesthetic development of children.

CHD 202. CHILDREN'S CREATIVE EXPERIENCES

3 cr. hrs., Lec. 2, Lab. 2

This course focuses on fostering creativity in preschool children and developing a creative attitude in teachers. Topics include selecting and developing creative experiences in language arts, music, art, science, math, and movement with observation and participation with young children required. Upon completion, students should be able to select and implement creative and age-appropriate experiences for young children.

CHD 203. CHILDREN'S LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

3 cr. hrs., Lec. 2, Lab. 2

This course surveys appropriate literature and language arts activities designed to enhance young children's speaking, listening pre-reading, and writing skills. Emphasis is placed on developmental appropriateness as related to language. Upon completion, students should be able to create, evaluate and demonstrate activities which support a language-rich environment for young children.

CHD 204. METHODS AND MATERIALS FOR TEACHING CHILDREN

3 cr. hrs., Lec. 2, Lab. 2

This course introduces basic methods and materials used in teaching young children. Emphasis is placed on students' compiling a professional resource file of activities used for teaching math, language arts, science and social studies concepts. Upon completion students should be able to demonstrate basic methods of creating learning experiences using appropriate techniques, materials and realistic expectations.

CHD 205. PROGRAM PLANNING FOR EDUCATING YOUNG CHILDREN

3 cr. hrs.

This course is designed to give students practice in lesson and unit planning, writing behavioral objectives, and evaluating activities taught to young children. Emphasis is placed on identifying basic aspects of cognitive development and how children learn. Upon completion students should be able to plan and implement developmentally appropriate curriculum and instructional practices based on knowledge of individual differences and the curriculum goals and content.

CHD 206. CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

3 cr. hrs.

This course introduces basic health, nutrition and safety management practices for young children. Emphasis is placed on setting up and maintaining a safe, healthy environment for young children including specific procedures for infants and toddlers and procedures regarding childhood illnesses and communicable diseases. Upon completion, students should be able to prepare a healthy, safe environment, plan nutritious meals and snacks, and recommend referrals if necessary.

CHD 208. ADMINISTRATION OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

3 cr. hrs.

This course includes appropriate administrative policies and procedures relevant to preschool programs. Topics include local, state and federal regulations; budget planning; record keeping; personnel policies and parent involvement. Upon completion, students should be able to identify elements of a sound business plan, develop familiarity with basic record keeping techniques, and identify elements of a developmentally appropriate program.

CHD 209. INFANT AND TODDLER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

3 cr. hrs.

This course focuses on child development from infancy to thirty months of age with emphasis on planning programs using developmentally appropriate material. Emphasis is placed on positive ways to support an infant's social, emotional, physical and intellectual development. Upon completion, student should be able to plan infant-toddler programs and environments which are appropriate and supportive of the families and the children.

CHD 210. EDUCATING EXCEPTIONAL YOUNG CHILDREN

3 cr. hrs., Lec. 2, Lab. 1

This course explores the many different types of exceptionalities found in young children. Topics include speech, language, hearing and visual impairments; gifted and talented children; mental retardation; emotional behavioral, and neurological handicaps. Upon completion, students should be able to identify appropriate strategies for working with young exceptional children.

CHD 215. SUPERVISED PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

3 cr. hrs., Lab. 6

This course provides a minimum of 90 hours of hands-on, supervised experience in an approved program for young children. Emphasis is placed on performance of daily duties which are assessed by the college instructor and the cooperating teacher. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate competency in a child care setting. Prerequisite: CHD 100.

CHD 217. MATH AND SCIENCE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

3 cr. hrs.

This course provides students with information on children's conceptual development and the fundamental basic concepts of both math and science. Students learn various techniques for planning, implementing and evaluating developmentally appropriate activities. Students will also learn about integrated curriculum.

CHD 222. SOCIAL STUDIES FOR CHILDREN

3 cr. hrs.

This course takes a global approach to the theory and practice of teaching social studies to young children. It includes methods and materials used for teaching geography, history, the arts and multicultural education using an integrated curriculum approach. The application of theoretical and philosophical concepts will be emphasized, as students are required to participate in both in-class demonstrations and laboratory experience.