

**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**EDUC-130**  
**Introduction to Early Childhood Education**  
3 Semester Hours

**HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Description

This course is designed to increase the student's understanding of various curriculum models and approaches in Early Childhood Education. Techniques for implementing and evaluating these models and approaches will be presented through lectures, videos, classroom activities, classroom visits, field placements and guest speakers. Furthermore, the student will explore some contemporary issues and problems affecting young children and learning, such as stress, sexism, homelessness, abuse, neglect and poverty. Students are required to complete 15 hours of Field Experience outside of class time. Students are placed in a Howard County Public School or may use a K-3 school where they are currently employed. (3 hours weekly)

Overall Course Objectives

By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify society's views of childhood through a historical perspective.
2. Describe the philosophies of major historical figures in early childhood education, as well as discuss how these philosophies influence early childhood programs today.
3. Discuss the needs of young children and outline appropriate practices for programming at each stage of development.
4. Identify important elements of early childhood classroom practice and philosophy in school settings Pre-K through 3rd grade.
5. Identify various types of child care programs including those targeted for special populations, and describe the components of each.
6. Observe a variety of programs for young children and compare and contrast the components of these programs.
7. List the characteristics of high quality early childhood programs.
8. Explain the role parents play in programs for young children and list strategies for promoting parent involvement.
9. Identify and discuss the contemporary issues currently affecting the lives and learning of young children.

## Major Topics

- I. Current Issues in Early Childhood Education
- II. Historical and Philosophical Influences
- III. Developmentally Appropriate Practice
- IV. Types of Early Childhood Programs
- V. Laws and Governance Relating to Early Childhood Programs
- VI. Parent Involvement
- VII. Contemporary Issues Affecting Young Children

## Course Requirements

Grading / Exams: Grading Procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

1. Completion of 15-Hour Field Placement
2. Journal Entries Based on Field Placement Assignment
3. Portfolio Assignment
4. Exams

## Other Course Information

Meets college definition for: Arts and Sciences Elective

This course is required for the Certificate of Proficiency and AAS Degree in Early Childhood Development, and for the AA and AAT Degrees in Early Childhood Education.