Title: Preschool and Early Primary Development

Short Title: PRESCHL ERLY DEV

Course Description

Examines theories of development and the developmental processes focusing on children ages 3-6. Developmental benchmarks in the physical, cognitive, social, emotional, and language domains are identified as well as the multiple influences that impact children's development. This course is designed for those working with students in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and early education classrooms.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this class, students will be able to:

1.   Apply theoretical frameworks to promote children's learning.
2.   Describe development of children from 3-6 years in physical, cognitive, social, emotional, and language domains.
3.   Identify influences that impact children's development.

Objectives

In this class, students will:

1.   Use developmental theories to explain and plan for children's development and learning.
2.   Explain the developmental process and its variability.
3.   Describe development and benchmarks in each domain: physical, cognitive, social, emotional, and language.
4.   Discuss the influence of multiple factors on children's development.
5.   Identify the role and influence of home and school on children's growth and development.

Content

I.   Theories of development including but not limited to:
        A.   Piaget
        B.   Vygotsky
        C.   Gardner
        D.   Erikson
        E.   Kohlberg
        F.   Bronfenbrenner
        G.   Maslow

II.   Developmental process
        A.   Biological and environmental interactions
        B.   Intersection of developmental domains
        C.   Developmental benchmarks

D.	Normative and individual variations

III.	Developmental domains
    A.	Physical
        1.	Brain development
        2.	Motor development
        3.	Sensory development
        4.	Perceptual development
        5.	Growth patterns

    B.	Cognitive
        1.	Conceptual learning
        2.	Executive function
            a)	Ability to focus
            b)	Reasoning
            c)	Problem solving
            d)	Planning
        3.	Information processing
        4.	Pre-operational thinking
        5.	Concrete-operational thinking

    C.	Social and emotional
        1.	Emotional-regulation
        2.	Social knowledge and understanding
        3.	Social skills
        4.	Moral and ethical development
        5.	Relationships
        6.	Social dispositions
        7.	Identity

    D.	Language
        1.	Language acquisition
        2.	Theories of language development
        3.	English Learners

IV.	Additional developmental influences such as:
    A.	Health and nutrition
    B.	Trauma
    C.	Culture
    D.	Socioeconomic factors
    E.	Environments
    F.	Families
    G.	Schools

Sample/Potential Assignments and Methods of Evaluation

Writing Assignment: After observing a child within this age range, reflect on the child's cognitive development and connect to Piaget's cognitive theory with specific examples	**Method of Evaluation:** students will be evaluated on their ability to complete an observation of a child's cognitive development who is in the 3 to 6-year-old age range and specifically indicate with examples the child's cognitive developmental skills and understanding. Students will demonstrate their understanding of Piaget's cognitive theory by applying it to the child which was observed, with specific examples.
Writing Assignment: Using Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems theory, discuss the implications of how a child's family and culture can influence and impact children's development.	**Method of Evaluation:** students will be evaluated on their ability to demonstrate their understanding of Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems theory by applying it with specific examples which indicates how a child's family and culture can influence and impact children's development.
Problem Solving Assignment: Using the observation of a specific child for this age group 3-6 years, select one of the developmental domains and plan an individualized activity that will support the child's development.	**Method of Evaluation:** students will be evaluated on their ability to complete an observation of a 3-6-year-old child on a specific developmental domain and apply this information in planning an activity which will support the child's development and is culturally and developmentally appropriate.
Skills Demonstration Assignment: Developmental Timeline 3-6 years which includes developmental domains: social, emotional, physical, cognitive, language and developmental benchmarks.	**Method of Evaluation:** Students will be evaluated on their ability to complete a developmental domain timeline which includes all developmental domains, accurately identifies the developmental benchmarks and indicates individual variations.
Skills Demonstration Assignment: Using different educational theories, connect and identify how they support play based learning and exploration	**Method of Evaluation:** students will be evaluated on their ability to demonstrate their knowledge of different educational theories and apply these theories to play based learning and how they support the importance of "play".