



College of Education and Human Development

Early Childhood Education Program

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<https://gse.gmu.edu/programs/earlychildhood/>

ECED 522.001

Developing Language, Literacy, and Communication in Young Children (3:3:0)

Fall 2012

Thursdays, 4:30-7:10 pm

Innovation Hall, Room 133

Instructor: Dr. Samita B. Arora

Telephone:

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Office hours: By appointment

Course Description

Examines strategies to develop language, literacy, and communication in young children with varying abilities. Explores the importance of adult-child interaction and the effect of bilingualism, cultural diversity, cognitive ability, and language disorders.

Prerequisite: Admission to the Early Childhood Education program or approval of course instructor

Nature of Course Delivery

This course utilizes a distributed learning format requiring timely and active participation of all students throughout the semester. Activities to support student achievement of the learner outcomes include instructor presentations, videos, student team presentations, collaborative student work in small groups in class and in on-line discussion groups, assigned readings, and projects leading to written products. Students engage in timely critical reflection and accountable talk related to the learning activities.

Learner Outcomes

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Present current research on language delays and disorders and the ways children's exceptional learning needs interact with their use and development of language.
2. Explain the ways current research influences instructional practices, including research on first and second language acquisition, language and cognition, language and culture, language disorders and communication deficits, adult-child interaction, and culture/environment.
3. Describe ways to support the early communication efforts of young children, including augmentative, assistive, and alternative technologies, in a culturally and developmentally responsive manner.
4. Design and implement varied communicative activities that support the interaction between diverse young children and their families.

5. Select children's literature and design meaningful literacy activities that reflect and appreciate cultural, linguistic, and ability diversity.
6. Create and promote a print rich environment for diverse young children.

Professional Standards

This course is aligned with the standards established by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC).

Required Text

Bardige, B. S., & Segal, M. M. (2005). *Building literacy with love: A guide for teachers and caregivers of children birth through age 5*. Washington, DC: ZERO TO THREE.

Hulit, L. M., Howard, M. R., & Fahey, K. R. (2010). *Born to talk: An introduction to speech and language development* (5th ed.). Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

George Mason University Policies and Resources for Students

- Academic integrity (honor code, plagiarism) – Students must adhere to guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See [http:// oai.gmu.edu/honor-code/](http://oai.gmu.edu/honor-code/)].
- Mason Email – Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, division, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>].
- Counseling and Psychological Services – The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops, and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- Office of Disability Services – Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor in writing at the beginning of the semester <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- The Writing Center (Optional Resource) – The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].
- University Libraries (Optional Resource) – The George Mason University Libraries provide numerous services, research tools, and help with using the library resources [See <http://library.gmu.edu/>].

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, Graduate School of Education, please visit our website [See <http://gse.gmu.edu/>].

Professional Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

Core Values Commitment: The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles.

Collaboration

Collaboration is an important human activity that involves shared responsibility in promoting healthy, productive lives, and educational success. We commit ourselves to work toward these goals in genuine partnerships with individuals, families, community agencies, schools, businesses, foundations, and other groups at the local, regional, national, and international levels.

Ethical Leadership

In all professions represented by the college, leadership is an essential component denoting ability and willingness to help lead professional practice to higher levels. We commit ourselves to practice ethical leadership through deliberate and systematic attention to the ethical principles that guide all leaders in a moral society.

Innovation

We have a history of creating dynamic, innovative programs, and we are dedicated to continue creating innovative approaches in all areas of our work. We commit ourselves to seeking new ways to advance knowledge, solve problems, improve our professional practice, and expand on our successes.

Research-Based Practice

The best practice in any discipline is based upon sound research and professional judgment. We commit ourselves to basing our instruction, scholarship, and policy recommendations on well-established principles that, wherever possible, emerge from research and reflection on its implications for professional practice.

Social Justice

Social justice embodies essential principles of equity and access to all opportunities in society, in accordance with democratic principles and respect for all persons and points of view. We commit ourselves to promoting equity, opportunity, and social justice through the college's operations and its missions related to teaching, research, and service.

Course Requirements

General Requirements

1. The completion of all readings assigned for the course is assumed. Because the class will be structured around discussion and small group activities, it is imperative that students keep up with the readings and participate in class.
2. Attendance in class an/or online is important to students' learning; therefore, students are expected to make every effort to attend class sessions and/or complete online modules within the designated timeframe. Absences, tardiness, leaving early, and not completing online modules in the designated timeframe may negatively affect course grades. If, due to an emergency, students will not be in class, they must call the instructor and leave a message or send an email before class. The following policy is from the university course catalog:

Students are expected to attend the class periods of the courses for which they register. In-class participation is important not only to the individual student, but also to the class as a whole. Because class participation may be a factor in grading, instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as de facto evidence of nonparticipation. Students who miss an exam with an acceptable excuse may be penalized according to the individual instructor's grading policy, as stated in the course syllabus.

3. In line with Mason's policy that students should not be penalized because of observances of their religious holidays, students shall be given an opportunity to make up, within a reasonable time, any academic assignment that is missed due to individual participation in religious observances. It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of any intended absences for religious observations in advance of the class that will be missed. Notice should be provided in writing as soon as possible.
4. During face-to-face and live online meetings, cell phones, pagers, and other communicative devices are not allowed in this class. Students must keep them stowed away and out of sight. Laptops or tablets (e.g., iPads) may be permitted for the purpose of taking notes only. Engaging in activities not related to the course (e.g. gaming, email, chat, etc.) will result in a significant deduction in their participation grade.
5. It is expected that assignments will be turned in on time. However, it is recognized that students occasionally have serious problems that prevent work completion. If such a dilemma arises, students should speak to the instructor prior to the assignment due date (when possible). If the student does not communicate with the instructor, a late penalty will be applied.
6. Mason is an Honor Code university; please see the [Office for Academic Integrity](#) for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when responsible for a task, students will perform that task. When students rely on someone else's work in an aspect of the performance of that task, they will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind), students will ask for guidance and clarification.

Written Assignments

All formal written assignments will be evaluated for content and presentation. The American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition (APA) style will be followed for all written work. All written work unless otherwise noted must be completed on a word processor and should be proofread carefully. (Use spell check!) If students are not confident of their own ability to catch errors, they should have another person proofread their work. When in doubt, they should check the APA manual. Portions of the APA manual appear at the Style Manuals link on the Mason library web guide at <http://library.gmu.edu/resources/edu/>. Students may consult the Writing Center for additional writing support.

Students will do the following:

1. Present ideas in a clear, concise, and organized manner. (Avoid wordiness and redundancy.)
2. Develop points coherently, definitively, and thoroughly.

3. Refer to appropriate authorities, studies, and examples to document where appropriate.
(Avoid meaningless generalizations, unwarranted assumptions, and unsupported opinions.)
4. Use correct capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and grammar.

Grading Criteria

A = 95-100 A- = 90-94 B+ = 87-89 B = 83-86
 B- = 80-82 C = 70-79 F = < 70

Grading Policy

All CEHD undergraduate and graduate students are held to the university grading policies as described in the Academic Policies section of the current catalog, which can be accessed at <http://catalog.gmu.edu>. Those students enrolled in a CEHD Licensure Graduate Certificate program, however, must earn a B- or better in all licensure coursework. A degree-seeking graduate student will be dismissed after accumulating grades of F in two courses or 9 credits of unsatisfactory grades (C or F) in graduate courses. A 3.0 grade point average is required for completion of the graduate degree.

Submission of Performance-Based Assessment

Every student registered for any Early Childhood Education course with a required performance-based assessment (will be designated as such in the syllabus) is required to submit this assessment Language Case Study Analysis to TaskStream (regardless of whether a course is an elective, a onetime course, or part of an undergraduate minor). Evaluation of your performance-based assessment will also be provided using TaskStream. Failure to submit the assessment to TaskStream will result in the course instructor reporting the course grade as Incomplete (IN). Unless this grade is changed upon completion of the required TaskStream submission, the IN will convert to an F nine weeks into the following semester.

Specific Course Assignments

Assignments	Due Dates	Points
Attendance & Participation	Ongoing	15
Children's Literature Resource List and Book Talk	Sept 26 th	15
Language Delays and Disorders Pamphlet and Presentation	Oct 17 th	10
Family Literacy Project	Dec 5 th	20
Language Analysis Project	Step 1 –Nov 7 th Steps 2 & 3 – Nov 21 st	40
TOTAL		100

Attendance and Participation (15 points)

Because active participation and engagement are imperative for optimal learning, preparation for and participation in in-class activities will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Students attend class, arrive on time, and stay for the entire class period.
- Students complete readings and prepare for class activities prior to class as is evidenced by their ability to discuss and write about the concepts presented and examined in the texts as well as participate fully in related activities.
- Students are actively involved in in-class and online learning experiences as is evidenced by (1) participating in all activities, (2) engaging in small and large group discussions, (3) using laptops and other electronic devices only to support discussion and learning and not for non-academic uses during class time, (4) completing written work related to the activities, and (5) supporting the participation and learning of classmates.
- Students show evidence of critical reflective thinking through in-class and online discussions, activities, and written reflections.

Note: To determine whether the campus is closed due to inclement weather, call 703-993-1000 or go to www.gmu.edu.

Children's Literature Resource List and Book Talk (15 points)

Students will create a family-friendly resource list of at least five children's books that are culturally, linguistically, and developmentally appropriate for diverse infants and toddlers and their families. The list will include the following information:

1. complete and accurate bibliographic information (title, author, illustrator, copyright date, city of publication, and publisher)
2. clear and concise descriptions of the books that include sufficient detail for readers to gain a clear understanding of the content of the book
3. culturally and developmentally appropriate examples of activities related to the book that families and teachers may do with children (at least two per book)
4. notes about the representation of diversity as appropriate
5. notes about why the book is appropriate for infants and toddlers

Students will bring two classes to share with classmates. In small groups, students will share their book, emphasizing an overview of the book, ways the book can be shared and enjoyed with infants and toddlers, and ideas for follow-up activities related to the book.

The resource list and book talk will be evaluated using a scoring guide based on the criteria listed above.

Language Delays and Disorders Pamphlet and Presentation (10 points)

Students will work with a partner to create a pamphlet about what is known about the language development of children with a specific delay, disorder, or medical condition. The pamphlet will include a description of the medical condition or disability, background information and research, possible effects on language and literacy development, promising approaches to promoting language and literacy development, issues and controversies, and professional and

support organizations. Students will include a complete and accurate reference list in APA style. The pamphlet will be presented in class. Please make copies for everyone.

Family Literacy Project (20 points)

Students will **make one book** to share with their focus child. This book will be developed based on observations and interviews with the family of the focus child. Students will create one of the following types of books.

- Book One will be based on an oral story shared in the home or school. This might be a folk tale passed down through the generations, a story about the child or another family member, or an event that recently happened.

OR

- Book Two will be about the child and family in their everyday, natural context. This might be a daily routine such as getting dressed, getting ready to go out, or going to visit somebody.

This book could be used in a classroom or at home to support the language and literacy development of the child.

Students will **write a six- to seven- page, double-spaced paper about the book**, including reference citations as appropriate, that provides clear insights into how they used stories gathered from the child and family to develop the book and how they could implement meaningful language and literacy activities. They will address how the book could be used to promote cultural and linguistic continuity and how the child responded to the book and activities. They will include the following:

- Description of how the stories were gathered from the focus child and the family, how the story was used to create the book, and how the book was developed to promote cultural and linguistic continuity
- Discussion of the types of activities that took place related to the book, including how they were used to promote cultural and linguistic continuity and how they met the developmental needs of the child
- Explanation of how gathering family stories influenced the planning and implementation of language and literacy activities other than the book activities
- Discussion on how the child responded to the book and activities related to the book
- Reflections on what was learned from this assignment about literacy and very young children, including what would be done differently in the future

Students will explain why they created the book and how they used them to enhance language and literacy development as well as promote cultural and linguistic continuity. They will also note other activities they planned and implemented based on the family stories they gathered.

Understanding and Integrating Developmental Pathways Case Studies Analysis Part B (40 points)

This is the NCATE 2b Assessment of Content Knowledge that shows evidence of meeting CEC Standards. This assignment must be submitted on TaskStream. See the assessment description and scoring rubric attached.

Class Schedule, Readings, and Assignments

Date	Topics	Readings & Assignments Due
Aug 29	How social context support & shape language	Syllabus review
Sept 5	Communication & Culture	Bardige & Segal, Chapter 1-5 <i>Sign up for Book Talk Presentations</i>
Sept 12 Online Class	Language & Cognition	Hulit & Howard, Chapter 1 Bardige & Segal, Chapter 7 & 8 Online class for today
Sept 19	Theories of Language Development	Hulit & Howard, Chapter 2 & 3
Sept 26	Language as the Foundation for Literacy Book Talk Presentations	Hulit & Howard, Chapter 4 DUE: Children's Literature Resource List and Book Talk
Oct 3	Typical Language Development	Hulit & Howard, Chapter 5
Oct 10	Developing Language & Literacy through children's literature	Hulit & Howard, Chapter 6 Bardige & Segal, Chapter 6
Oct 17	Developmental Disorders and Language Delays Language Delays and Disorder Presentation	Hulit & Howard, Chapter 9 Bardige & Segal, Chapter 11 DUE: Language Delays and Disorders Pamphlet and Presentation
Oct 24	Typical Speech Development	Hulit & Howard, Chapter 7
Oct 31	Dual Language Development	Hulit & Howard, Chapter 8
Nov 7	Adult-Child Interactions & Language Development	Bardige & Segal, Chapter 9, 10 & 12 DUE: Case Studies Analysis Project, Part 1
Nov 14	Supporting Language Development	Bardige & Segal, Chapter 13
Nov 21	Supporting Literacy Development	DUE: Case Studies Analysis Project, Parts 2 and 3
Nov 28	<i>Holiday: No Class</i> (Thanksgiving Break)	
Dec 5	Learning From Family Stories/ Final Presentations	DUE: Family Literacy Project
Dec 12	Wrap up	