

**George Mason University  
College of Education and Human Development  
Early Childhood Education**

ECED 502.600.DL1 Foundations of Language and Literacy for Diverse Prekindergarten and  
Kindergarten Learners  
3 Credits, Spring 2018  
Saturdays/ 9:00 am – 3:50 pm  
NET: 3/19 – 5/16  
Face-to-Face Sessions: 3/24, 4/14, 5/5  
Colgan Hall 204, Science and Technology (PW) Campus

**Faculty**

Name: Thana Vance, PhD  
Office Hours: By Appointment  
Office Location: Thompson Hall 1200, Fairfax Campus  
Office Phone: 703-993-3844  
Email Address: [tvancero@gmu.edu](mailto:tvancero@gmu.edu)

**Prerequisites/Corequisites**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non-Degree or Senior Plus. Enrollment is limited to Graduate, Non-Degree or Undergraduate level students. Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**University Catalog Course Description**

Examines complexity of language acquisition and literacy development of diverse young learners. Emphasizes language acquisition, reading, and writing in prekindergarten and kindergarten contexts. Focuses on evidence-based assessment and instructional practices that promote prekindergarten and kindergarten children's language and literacy development. Explores social, cultural, affective, cognitive, and educational factors that play a role in language acquisition and literacy learning. Notes: Field experience required. Offered by Graduate School of Education. May not be repeated for credit.

**Course Overview**

Not Applicable

**Course Delivery Method**

This course will be delivered in a hybrid online and face-to-face format.

**Learner Outcomes or Objectives**

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

1. Explain the reciprocal nature of reading and writing.
2. Discuss factors (social, cultural, affective, cognitive, and educational) that play a role in language acquisition and literacy learning (reading and writing).
3. Describe development of linguistic competence in the areas of phonetics, semantics, syntax, morphology, phonology, and pragmatics.

4. Explain the importance of play-based learning in prekindergarten and kindergarten children's language and literacy development.
5. Select and enact strategies that develop prekindergarten and kindergarten children's phonemic and other phonological awareness, concepts of print, phonics, fluency, vocabulary development, comprehension, composition, conventions of print, spelling development, handwriting, and writing processes.
6. Recommend ways to foster prekindergarten and kindergarten children's appreciation of a variety of fiction and non-fiction text.
7. Design a literacy-rich environment that promotes prekindergarten and kindergarten children's interest and engagement in language acquisition, reading, and writing.
8. Evaluate prekindergarten and kindergarten classroom language and literacy environments and resources (e.g., centers, circle time, toys, books, digital technologies, etc.).
9. Identify and discuss specific language-based (SLD) conditions, such as dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, and auditory processing disorders.
10. Identify students at risk of learning related issues due to attention deficit disorders.
11. Identify the special education identification process of students at risk of learning disabilities, including pre-referral, referral, evaluation, and eligibility in federal and state regulations, as specified in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Regulations Governing Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia, as it relates to disability categories such as specific learning disabilities (SLD) and speech and language impairment.

**Professional Standards** (Council of Exceptional Children and National Association for the Education of Young Children)

Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards:  
Not Applicable

### **Required Texts**

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. ISBN: 9781433805615

Casbergue, R. M., & Strickland, D. S. (2016). *Reading and writing in preschool: Teaching the essentials*. New York, NY: The Guilford Press. ISBN: 9781462523474

Morrow, L. M., Roskos, K. A., & Gambrell, L. B. (2016). *Oral language and comprehension in preschool: Teaching the essentials*. New York, NY: The Guilford Press. ISBN: 9781462524006

Richardson, J. (2016). *The next step forward in guided reading*. New York, NY: Scholastic. Select chapters: Chapter 1, Chapter 2, Chapter 3, and select modules from Chapter 7: #3, #4, #13, #16, and #20. ISBN: 9781338161113

### **Course Performance Evaluation**

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, Tk20, hard copy).

Assignments	Due Dates	Points
Attendance and Participation	Ongoing	15
Field Experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field Experience Placement Approval Form</li> <li>Field Experience Documentation Form (after completion of Field Experience hours)</li> </ul>	March 24 May 9	1 4
Family Communication Resource on Developing Linguistic Competence	April 28	20
Interactive Reading and Writing Experiences Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part 1. Plan a Reading Experience</li> <li>Part 2. Plan a Writing Experience</li> <li>Part 3. Field Experience Reflection</li> </ul>	April 21 May 5 May 9	25 15 15
Dyslexia Module/Training	May 5	5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>

- **Assignments and/or Examinations**

**Field Experience Documentation (5 points)**

This course requires a minimum of 15 hours field experience in an early childhood education classroom (PreK or Kindergarten). To initiate this assignment, students will visit <https://cehd.gmu.edu/endorse/ferf> and complete the online “Field Experience Request Form.” On the form they will be asked to indicate how their placement will be arranged.

- **Field Experience Placement Approval Form (1 point)**

- Students will upload the **Field Experience Placement Approval Form** to Blackboard. In this form they will provide a statement confirming that they have completed the online “Field Experience Request Form” and they will provide information to the instructor about where and how they will complete the field experience.

- **Field Experience Documentation Form (4 points)**

- Upon completion of their field experience hours, students will provide documentation of their experience.
  - If they completed the field experience within their own setting (requires instructor approval), they will upload the **On-the-Job Placement Documentation Form** to Blackboard. This form requires verification from the assistant principal or principal on site.
  - If they attended a field placement other than where they work, they will upload the **Field Experience Documentation Form** to Blackboard. This form requires verification from the mentoring teacher on site.

**Family Communication Resource on Developing Linguistic Competence (20 points)**

Students will develop a communication (e.g., newsletter, brochure, webpage, blog, etc.) focused on developing prekindergarten and kindergarten children’s linguistic competence and will highlight one of the following the areas: phonetics, semantics, syntax, morphology, phonology, or pragmatics. Students will include the following:

- Background information, including family-friendly definitions and examples, supported by class readings, handouts, resources, and discussions;
- Three family-friendly, culturally responsive activities families can do at home or in the community that develop linguistic competence in the selected area;
- A description of one resource families can access to support their child's language development; and
- A reference list of the sources formatted in APA style.

The Family Communication Resource will be created in an engaging and family-friendly format and will be no longer than two single-spaced pages.

### **Interactive Reading and Writing Experiences Plans (55 points)**

Students will plan and conduct an interactive reading experience and an interactive writing experience for prekindergarten or kindergarten children in their field experience placement. They will include the following parts in the lesson plan:

- ***Part 1: Plan a Reading Experience (25 points).*** Plan a read aloud experience and extension activities.
  - Evaluate three potential books to read aloud using the evaluation form described in class.
  - Select one book to read to a group of prekindergarten or kindergarten children and write a rationale for the selection of this book. The rationale will be included in the lesson plan template.
  - Write a read aloud lesson plan using the lesson plan template provided by the instructor.
  - Support instructional decisions (i.e., rationale for the book selection, the lesson plan activities, and the extension activities) by citing class readings, handouts, resources, and discussions and including a reference list of the sources formatted in APA style.
  - Implement the lesson with the selected field experience children.
  - Describe at least two extension activities that extend the read aloud, including at least one play-based learning activity and one other experience. Describe each extension activity in one to two well-developed paragraphs after the lesson plan template. Provide a two- to three-paragraph reflection on the implementation of the above lesson plan. Note how the lesson was implemented, changes made during the lesson and why, achievement of stated objectives by the students, and suggested revisions to improve the lesson for future implementation.
- ***Part 2: Plan a Writing Experience (15 points).*** Based upon the book selected for the read aloud in the Reading Experience above, plan a complimentary writing experience and extension activities.
  - Write a lesson plan using the lesson plan template provided by the instructor.
  - Support instructional decisions (i.e., rationale for the book selection, the lesson plan activities, and the extension activities) by citing class readings, handouts, resources, and discussions and including a reference list of the sources formatted in APA style.
  - Describe at least two extension activities that extend the writing experience, including at least one that involves a play-based learning activity. Describe each extension activity in one to two well-developed paragraphs after the lesson plan template.

- **Part 3: Field Experience Reflection (15 points).** Students will write a two- to three-page reflection based on their field experience. Students will discuss the following:
  - Process for selecting developmentally appropriate materials and instructional experiences;
  - Accommodations and modifications made to the lesson plans based upon the individual and unique needs of the students in the field placement (e.g., ability, special needs, culture, linguistic, etc.);
  - What they learned about developing literacy in young children through their (a) observations and interactions in the classroom and (b) development and implementation of the reading experience lesson plan; and
  - Suggestions to improve literacy development in the classroom.

Students will cite current research from the course textbooks, class discussions and handouts, and/or other relevant peer-reviewed sources to support the information they provide for each Part of the Interactive Reading and Writing Experiences. They will use in-text citations and include a reference list per APA style guidelines.

#### **Dyslexia Module (5 points)**

Students will complete the Dyslexia Module/Training required by the VDOE (see link below) and will submit the certificate of completion to Blackboard.

For the Dyslexia Module/Training: Effective July 1, 2017, every person seeking initial licensure or renewal of a license shall complete awareness training, provided by VDOE, on the indicators of dyslexia, as that term is defined by the board pursuant to regulations, and the evidence-based interventions and accommodations for dyslexia.

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/dyslexia-module/story.html>.

#### • **Other Requirements**

##### **Attendance and Participation**

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 (a) participating in all activities, (b) engaging in small- and large-group discussions, (c) completing written work related to the activities, and (d) supporting the participation and learning of classmates.
- Students show evidence of critical reflective thinking through in-class and online discussions, activities, and written reflections.
- Professional dispositions are to be displayed at all times while interacting with the instructor and other students. **Cell phones are not to be used during class. Laptops are to be used for instructional purposes only.**

## 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 website at <http://infoguides.gmu.edu/content.php?pid=39979>. 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.
5. Type the paper with double spacing, indented paragraphs, 1-inch margins all around, and 12-point Times New Roman font.

## • Grading

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

Incomplete (IN): This grade may be given to students who are passing a course but who may be unable to complete scheduled coursework for a cause beyond reasonable control.

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.

## Professional Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times. See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/>.

## Class Schedule

Class	Topics	Assignments & Readings Due
<p>Week 1 Mar 19-25</p>	<p>Course overview</p> <p>Exploring relationships among listening, speaking, reading, and writing</p> <p>Understanding factors affecting language and literacy development (social, cultural, affective, cognitive, and educational)</p> <p>Developing linguistic competence in the areas of phonetics, semantics, syntax, morphology, phonology, and pragmatics</p>	<p>Casbergue &amp; Strickland, Ch. 1 Morrow et al., Ch. 1</p>
<p>Face-to-Face Class March 24</p>		<p><b>Due to Bb – Field Experience Approval Form</b></p>
<p>Week 2 Mar 26-Apr 1</p>	<p>Designing and providing literacy-rich environments in the classroom</p> <p>Promoting and building upon home language and literacy practices</p> <p>Planning and implementing instructional experiences that promote talking, reading, and writing</p>	<p>Casbergue &amp; Strickland, Ch. 2 Morrow et al., Ch. 6</p> <p>Morrow et al., Ch. 2</p>
<p>Week 3 Apr 2-8</p>	<p>Designing literacy centers and activities</p> <p>Promoting language and literacy through conversation and play</p> <p>Designing and implementing a comprehensive literacy program</p> <p>Developing listening comprehension through interactive read alouds</p> <p>Comprehension Modules 3 and 4</p>	<p>Morrow et al., Ch. 3, 4</p> <p>Morrow et al., Ch. 5 Richardson, Introduction, Ch. 1</p>

Class	Topics	Assignments & Readings Due
<p>Week 4 Apr 9-15</p>	<p>Developing phonemic and other phonological awareness</p> <p>Connecting oral language to print</p>	<p>Casbergue &amp; Strickland, Ch. 3 Richardson, View Pre-A Video Links 1, 2, 3</p>
	<p>Developing print and alphabetic knowledge for reading</p> <p>Developing literacy through shared reading and interactive writing</p>	<p>Casbergue &amp; Strickland, Ch. 4 Richardson, Ch. 2; View Pre-A Video Links 4, 5, 6</p>
<p>Face-to-Face Class April 14</p>		
<p>Week 5 Apr 16-22</p>	<p>Assessing print knowledge for reading</p> <p>Developing print and alphabetic knowledge for writing</p> <p>Assessing print knowledge for writing</p>	<p>Casbergue &amp; Strickland, Ch. 6 Richardson, View Pre-A Video Link 7</p> <p>Casbergue &amp; Strickland, Ch. 5, 7</p> <p><b>Due to Bb – Part 1: Interactive Reading Experience Plan</b></p>
<p>Week 6 Apr 23-29</p>	<p>Implementing guided reading and writing with early and emergent readers and writers</p> <p>Comprehension Modules 13 and 16</p> <p>Developing reading comprehension</p> <p>Promoting independent reading and writing</p> <p>Comprehension Module 20</p>	<p>Richardson, Ch. 3; View Emergent Video Links 1-9</p> <p><b>Due to Bb – Family Communication Resource on Developing Linguistic Competence (April 28)</b></p>



Class	Topics	Assignments & Readings Due
Week 7 Apr 30-May 6	Integrating language and literacy throughout the day  Identifying principles to guide language and literacy instruction for prekindergarten and kindergarten children  Identifying and meeting the needs of young students with specific language-based conditions and attention deficit disorders  Understanding the Response to Intervention and special education process and components  Course wrap up and evaluation	Morrow et al., Ch. 7
Face-to-Face Class May 5		<b>Due to Bb – Part 2: Interactive Writing Experience Plan</b>  <b>Due to Bb – Dyslexia Module/Training</b>
Finals Week May 7-13	<i>No Class – Finals Week</i>	<b>Due to Bb – Part 3: Field Experience Reflection (May 9)</b>  <b>Due to Bb – Field Experience Documentation Form (May 9)</b>

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

### 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: <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>.

## GMU Policies and Resources for Students

### *Policies*

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students **solely** through their Mason email account.
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see <http://ods.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be silenced during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

### *Campus Resources*

- Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to [tk20help@gmu.edu](mailto:tk20help@gmu.edu) or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <http://coursessupport.gmu.edu/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>.

**For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website: <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/>.**