

# Virginia Western Community College

## CHD 216

### Early Childhood Programs, Schools, and Social Change

#### **Prerequisites**

None

#### **Course Description**

Explores methods of developing positive, effective relations between staff and parents to enhance the developmental goals of home and school. Reviews current trends and issues in education, describes symptoms of homes in need of support, investigates non-traditional family and cultural patterns, and lists community resources.

**Semester Credits: 3**

**Lecture Hours: 3**

#### **Required Materials**

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Blackboard

#### **Textbook:**

Gestwicki, Carol. *Home, School, and Community Relations* 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Cengage. ISBN: 978-1-111-83323-7

#### **Other Required Materials:**

## **Course Outcomes**

**At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

1. Diverse types of families, including characteristics and influences and the impact on child development.
2. A sensitivity and awareness of other families' traditions, lifestyles and values.
3. Personal values and how these values affect behavior when working with young children and their families.
4. An awareness of the demands and pressures on families of children with special needs so that partnerships can be formed with parents for each child's optimal development.
5. The way in which families function as systems within and across communities.
6. Family stressors, typical reactions to stress, and risk factors for family dysfunction.
7. Models for family involvement within early childhood classrooms and an understanding of the importance of this relationship.
8. Strategies for effective communication between home and school.
9. Collaboration skills which support effective partnerships with families.
10. Community resources both public and private that support families.
11. The advocacy role for teachers of young children.
12. Learning standards as they relate to families and community: the Virginia Foundation Blocks, the Child Development Milestones, The Virginia Standards of Learning and Core Competencies for Early Childhood Professionals.
13. Discuss the importance of listening attentively to family members as they share observations of their child's behavior or skills, and record the information for consideration in planning activities.
14. Students will identify how information provided in a transition profile can provide support to children and their families as they transition into preschool.

**Topical Description**

1	Introduction, Family Diversity
2	Families Today
3	Parenting Today
4	Family Involvement
5	Benefits of partnerships
6	Barriers to partnerships
7	Successful partnerships
8	At the beginning with families
9	Communication with families
10	Home/School connection
11	Parent education
12	Advocacy for families
13	Families with diverse backgrounds
14	Families in particular circumstances
15	Strategies for lessening tensions
16	Programs that work

**Notes to Instructors (portfolio requirements)**

1. Students must complete a parent newsletter.