

Virginia Western Community College

CHD 265

Advanced Observation and Participation in Early Childhood Programs

Prerequisites

CHD 120, CHD 215, CHD 165, and with department approval

Course Description

Observes and participates in early childhood settings such as child care centers, pre-school, Montessori schools, or public school settings (kindergarten through third grade). Emphasizes planning and implementation of appropriate activities and materials for children. Students will spend one hour each week in a seminar session in addition to 60 clock hours in the field. May be taken again for credit.

Semester Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 1

Laboratory: 6

Required Materials

1. Internet access
2. Blackboard

Textbook:

Observing & Understanding Child Development: A Child Study Manual; Ahola, Kovacik, Cengage. ISBN: 978-1-418-01536-7

Other Required Materials: None

Course Outcomes

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

1. Continue to explore the professional field of early childhood education/child development.
2. Develop and demonstrate an understanding of professionalism, ethics and confidentiality in the field of early childhood education/child development.
3. Successfully carry out responsibilities in the fieldsite classroom, i.e., working with the supervising teacher and other staff as well as working directly with the children.
4. Identify the reasons for and value of making ongoing observations of children and programs; identification and documentation of children's interests, strengths.
5. Develop an understanding of assessment and evaluation practices, keeping in mind validity, reliability and sensitivity to individual children and development.
6. Use assigned assessment and evaluation practices in natural settings.
7. Analyze the relationship between child/program observations, child/program assessments, and planning for services and curriculum.
8. Identify ways to share observation and assessment results with families and colleagues.
9. Develop an understanding of ethical and legal responsibilities as related to confidentiality.
10. Conduct him/herself professionally and as a representative of the Virginia Western Community College Early Childhood Development Program whenever engaged in fieldsite observation and/or participation.
11. Demonstrate emotional and social well-being in interactions with VWCC faculty, fieldsite staff, children and their families.
12. Develop an understanding and application of relevant standards: Milestones for Child Development, Virginia Foundation Blocks and Competencies for Early Childhood Professionals.
13. Demonstrate knowledge of adaptations to the environment and lesson plans for children with special needs and varying cultural expectations. Identify how adaptations to the early childhood environment facilitate development for all children.

Topical Description

1	Professionalism, ethics and confidentiality
2	Reasons and value of ongoing observation and assessment
3	Connecting observation/assessment to planning and curriculum
4	Planning for young children
5	Successes and challenges of Field Placement

Notes to Instructors (portfolio requirements)

1. Students must complete 60 hours of practicum in a field site serving children birth to age 8.
2. Students must also keep a reflective journal of their field experience.