

Virginia Western Community College

CHD 165

Observation and Participation in Early Childhood/Primary Settings

Prerequisites

None

Course Description

Focuses on observation as the primary method for gathering information about children in early childhood settings. Emphasizes development of skills in the implementation of a range of observation techniques.

Includes 40 hours of field placement in early learning setting.

Seminar 2 hours. Field placement 2 hours. Total 4 hours per week.

3 credits

Semester Credits: 3 Lecture Hours: 2 Field Placement Hours: 2

Required Materials

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Canvas

Textbook:

Observing Development of the Young Child. 8th edition. Beaty, Pearson. 2014. ISBN-9780132867566.

Other Required Materials: *Optional

Week by Week: Planning for Doc Child Development

Course Outcomes

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

- Identify the principles and major developmental milestones of children based on the domains of physical/motor, emotional/social, and cognitive/linguistic development
- Apply various observation methods and techniques, including both formal and informal to look at cognitive/linguistic, physical/motor, and emotional/social development
- Identify and practice professional ethics and confidentiality when working with children and families
- Explain the reasons for and value of conducting ongoing observations of children and programs
- Articulate how one's own biases can affect observations.
- Critique various sources of assessment data
- Produce written observations that are factual and descriptive rather than interpretive and judgmental
- Articulate the relationships among child/program observations, child/program assessments, and planning for services
- Explain the importance of cultural aspects and parental input in children's assessments
- Analyze and describe how observation and assessment are connected to understanding behavior and situations
- Identify procedures for documenting suspected child abuse
- Explain ways to assemble children's portfolios and its use in conferencing with families
- Identify and apply learning standards as they relate to early childhood education.

Topical Description

1	Informal and formal observation techniques
2	Objectivity in observing and recording data
3	Ethics of observation and recording
4	Including parents in data collection and results
5	Developmental tasks in child development
6	Use of assessments in planning for individual children, curriculum and, program needs
7	Using children's interests as a basis for creating concept and skill development learning activities

Notes to Instructors

1. Students must complete 40 hours of observation and participation in an early childhood classroom serving children birth-age 8.

[ADA Statement \(PDF\)](#)

[Title IX Statement \(PDF\)](#)