

Virginia Western Community College

CHD 216

Early Learning, Family, Community, and Social Change

Prerequisites

None

Course Description

Explores methods of developing positive, effective partnerships with families to enhance their developmental goals for children. Describes risk and protective factors and identifies community resources. Considers culture and other diverse needs, perspectives, and abilities of families and educators. Emphasizes advocacy and public policy awareness as an important role of early childhood educators. Lecture 3 hours per week.
3 credits

Semester Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Required Materials

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Canvas

Textbook:

Gestwicki, Carol. *Home, School, and Community Relations* 9th ed. Cengage. ISBN: 978-1-305-08901-3

Other Required Materials: None

Course Outcomes

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

- Identify diverse types of family patterns, including characteristics and influences
- Describe the way in which families function as systems within and across communities
- Distinguish family stressors, typical reactions to stress, and risk and protective factors.
- Recognize the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the growth of development in children, families, and communities
- Describe models for family engagement within early childhood education classrooms
- Formulate strategies for effective communication between home and school
- Locate community resources, both public and private that support and empower families
- Illustrate the importance of the role of advocacy in early childhood education
- Identify and apply current State and National standards and competencies as they relate to working with children and families.

Topical Description

1	Family theories (e.g. Family systems theory, Ecological theory) and application of principles
2	Diversity within families and how this affects relationships with schools
3	The range and role of community service agencies working with families
4	The importance of family engagement and empowerment in early learning settings and schools
5	Ethics, public policy and social change

Notes to Instructors

[ADA Statement](#) (PDF)

[Title IX Statement](#) (PDF)