

California Community Colleges ECE/CD 2013 Curriculum Alignment Project Expansion

Title: Introduction to Children with Special Needs

Suggested Short Title: Intro Child Sp Nds

Course Description

Introduces the variations in development of children with special needs ages birth through eight and the resulting impact on families. Includes an overview of historical and societal influences, laws relating to children with special needs, and the identification and referral process.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Recognize various exceptionalities and conditions of children and identify interventions based on the developmental continuum.
2. Evaluate the role of history and society in shaping current policies related to best practices of inclusion and serving children with special needs.
3. Collaborate with families and community members in supporting inclusion of children with special needs.

Objectives

In this course students will:

1. Describe the sequence of development and the interrelationships among developmental areas.
2. Examine the key contributions of developmental theorists, advocates and legal decisions in influencing best practices in early childhood special education.
3. Identify community resources that meet the needs of children with special needs and their families.
4. Explain various strategies that support collaborative practices in promoting the optimal development of children within the context of their family and community.
5. Summarize the steps in the referral process including observation, documentation, screening, and assessment.
6. Identify the benefits of using a strength-based approach in working with children with special needs and their families.

Content

A. Historical Overview of Early Intervention/Special Education

1. Theory/educational foundations
2. Laws and regulations
 - a. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
 - i. Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)
 - ii. Individualized Education Program (IEP)
 - b. Inclusion
 - c. Least restrictive and natural environments
3. People first language
4. Advocacy and public policy
5. Ethics-professional behaviors

B. Development and variations in development

1. Prenatal development and risk factors
2. Genetically inherited conditions.
3. Environmental factors
4. Cognitive
5. Communication/language

6. Social and emotional
7. Mental health
8. Physical

C. Impact on families

1. Grief, stress and coping strategies
2. Supporting families
3. Diverse perspectives

D. Developmental screening and assessments

1. Referral process
2. Community resources