



College of Education and Human Development

Early Childhood Education Program  
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<https://gse.gmu.edu/programs/earlychildhood/>

### **ECED 523**

#### **Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities: Collaborative and Consultative Approaches (3:3:0)**

**Fall 2012**

**Thursday, 7:20 pm-10:00pm**

**Robinson B 220**

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#### **Course Description**

Covers methods of service delivery for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. Explores key aspects of consultation, interdisciplinary collaboration, service coordination, and family-centered services. Focuses on culturally responsive practices.

**Prerequisite:** Admission to the Early Childhood Education program or approval of course instructor.

#### **Nature of Course Delivery**

This course utilizes a distributed learning format requiring timely and active participation of all students throughout the semester. Activities to support student achievement of the learner outcomes include instructor presentations, videos, student team presentations, collaborative student work in small groups in class and in on-line discussion groups, assigned readings, and projects leading to written products. Students engage in timely critical reflection and discussion related to the learning activities.

#### **Learner Outcomes**

This course is designed to enable students to

1. Discuss the social-ecological basis of early intervention.
2. Identify key concepts in infant mental health and the role of early intervention in supporting infant mental health
3. Demonstrate knowledge about families, communities, and developmentally appropriate practices.
4. Describe the cultural contexts of families, including community resources, and its implications for structuring supportive interventions.
5. Learn from families via observations, interview, and other informal evaluation techniques.
6. Analyze key issues and controversies confronting early intervention today.
7. Describe key components of IDEA 2004 (P.L. 108-446), Part C, and discuss implications for state and local implementation.

8. Describe effective service coordination, interagency coordination, and transition from Part C services.
9. Describe integration of children with disabilities with peers who are typically developing.
10. Explain skills needed for consultation with families, therapists, paraprofessionals, and other early childhood educators.
11. Explain the process of preparing, collaborating with, and monitoring paraprofessionals.

### Professional Standards

This course is aligned with the standards established by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC).

### Required Text

Ensher, G.L., & Clark, D.A. (2011). *Relationship-centered practices in early childhood: Working with families, infants, and young children at risk*. Baltimore, MD: Brookes. [ISBN 978-1-59857-059-5]

### Recommended Texts

Pretti-Frontczak, K., & Bricker, D. (2004). *An activity based approach to early intervention* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). Baltimore, MD: Brookes. ISBN 978-1-55766-736-6 (on reserve in Johnson Library)

Lynch, E.W., & Hanson, M.J. (2011). *Developing cross-cultural competence: A guide for working with children and their families*. (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). Baltimore, MD: Brookes. ISBN 978-1-59857-163-9 (on reserve in Johnson Library)

Chen, D. (2009). *Early intervention in action: Working across disciplines to support infants with multiple disabilities and their families*. Baltimore, MD: Brookes. ISBN 978-1-55766-995-7. This is a DVD, not a book.

Barrera, I, Corso, R.M., & Macpherson, D. (2012). *Skilled dialogue: Strategies for responding to cultural diversity in early childhood*. Second Edition. Baltimore, MD: Brookes. ISBN 978-1-59857-164-6 (on reserve in Johnson library)

**Online Resources**– students download and print their own copies

Students are also responsible for reviewing resources and links posted on Blackboard

IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Act) 2004 (P.L. 108-446), Part C at <http://idea.ed.gov/part-c/search/new> or <http://www.copyright.gov/legislation/pl108-446.pdf>

Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) form for the State of Virginia  
<http://www.infantva.org/pr-IFSP.htm>

National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NEC-TAC)  
<http://www.nectac.org/>

Division of Early Childhood (DEC)

<http://www.dec-sped.org/>

Zero to Three

<http://zerotothree.org>

Shonkoff, J., & Meisels, S.J. (2000). *Handbook of early childhood intervention*. United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press.

<http://catdir.loc.gov/catdir/samples/cam032/99025362.pdf>

Shonkoff, J., & Phillips, D.A. (2000). *From neurons to neighborhoods: The science of early childhood development*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

<http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?isbn=0309069882>

### **George Mason University Policies and Resources for Students**

- Academic integrity (honor code, plagiarism) – Students must adhere to guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>].
- Mason Email – Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, division, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>]
- Counseling and Psychological Services – The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops, and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- Office of Disability Services – Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor in writing at the beginning of the semester <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- The Writing Center (Optional Resource) – The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].
- University Libraries (Optional Resource) – The George Mason University Libraries provide numerous services, research tools, and help with using the library resources [See <http://library.gmu.edu/>].

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, Graduate School of Education, please visit our website [See <http://gse.gmu.edu/>].

**Core Values Commitment:** The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles.

### ***Collaboration***

Collaboration is an important human activity that involves shared responsibility in promoting healthy, productive lives, and educational success. We commit ourselves to work toward these goals in genuine partnerships with individuals, families, community agencies, schools, businesses, foundations, and other groups at the local, regional, national, and international levels.

### ***Ethical Leadership***

In all professions represented by the college, leadership is an essential component denoting ability and willingness to help lead professional practice to higher levels. We commit ourselves to practice ethical leadership through deliberate and systematic attention to the ethical principles that guide all leaders in a moral society.

### ***Innovation***

We have a history of creating dynamic, innovative programs, and we are dedicated to continue creating innovative approaches in all areas of our work. We commit ourselves to seeking new ways to advance knowledge, solve problems, improve our professional practice, and expand on our successes.

### ***Research-Based Practice***

The best practice in any discipline is based upon sound research and professional judgment. We commit ourselves to basing our instruction, scholarship, and policy recommendations on well-established principles that, wherever possible, emerge from research and reflection on its implications for professional practice.

### ***Social Justice***

Social justice embodies essential principles of equity and access to all opportunities in society, in accordance with democratic principles and respect for all persons and points of view. We commit ourselves to promoting equity, opportunity, and social justice through the college's operations and its missions related to teaching, research, and service.

## **Course Requirements**

### **General Requirements**

1. The completion of all readings assigned for the course is assumed. Because the class will be structured around discussion and small group activities, it is imperative that students keep up with the readings and participate in class and on-line.
2. Attendance in class is important to students' learning; therefore, students are expected to make every effort to attend class sessions. Absences, tardiness, and leaving early may negatively affect course grades. If, due to an emergency, students will not be in class, they must call the instructor and leave a message or send an email before class. The following policy is from the university course catalog:

Students are expected to attend the class periods of the courses for which they register. In-class participation is important not only to the individual student, but also to the class as a whole. Because class participation may be a factor in grading, instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as de facto evidence of nonparticipation. Students

who miss an exam with an acceptable excuse may be penalized according to the individual instructor's grading policy, as stated in the course syllabus.

3. In line with Mason's policy that students should not be penalized because of observances of their religious holidays, students shall be given an opportunity to make up, within a reasonable time, any academic assignment that is missed due to individual participation in religious observances. It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of any intended absences for religious observations in advance of the class that will be missed. Notice should be provided in writing as soon as possible.
4. During face-to-face meetings, cell phones, pagers, and other communicative devices are not allowed in this class. Students must keep them stowed away and out of sight. Laptops or tablets (e.g., iPads) may be permitted for the purpose of taking notes only, but students must submit a request in writing to do so. Engaging in any other activities, even if related to other parts of the course, will result in a significant deduction to a student's participation grade.
5. It is expected that assignments will be turned in on time (the beginning of the class in which they are due). However, it is recognized that students occasionally have serious problems that prevent work completion. If such a dilemma arises, students should speak to the instructor prior to the assignment due date (when possible). If the student does not communicate with the instructor, a late penalty will be applied.
6. Mason is an Honor Code university; please see the [Office for Academic Integrity](#) for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially it means this: When responsible for a task, the student will perform that task. When a student relies on someone else's work in an aspect of the performance of that task, they will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind), students will ask for guidance and clarification.

### **Written Assignments**

All written assignments prepared outside of class will be evaluated for content and presentation. The American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition (APA) style will be followed for all written work. All written work unless otherwise noted must be completed on a word processor and should be proofread carefully. (Use spell check!) If students are not confident of their own ability to catch errors, they should have another person proofread their work. When in doubt, they should check the APA manual. Portions of the APA manual appear at the Style Manuals link on the Mason library web guide at <http://infoguides.gmu.edu/style>. Students may consult the Writing Center for additional writing support.

Students will do the following:

1. Present ideas in a clear, concise, and organized manner. (Avoid wordiness and redundancy.)
2. Develop points coherently, definitively, and thoroughly.
3. Refer to appropriate authorities, studies, and examples to document where appropriate. (Avoid meaningless generalizations, unwarranted assumptions, and unsupported opinions.)
4. Use correct capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and grammar.

### Grading Criteria

A = 95 – 100  
B- = 80 – 82

A- = 90 – 94  
C = 70 – 79

B+ = 87 – 89  
F = < 70

B = 83 – 86

### Grading Policy

All CEHD undergraduate and graduate students are held to the university grading policies as described in the Academic Policies section of the current catalog, which can be accessed at <http://catalog.gmu.edu>. Those students enrolled in a CEHD Licensure Graduate Certificate program, however, must earn a B- or better in all licensure coursework. A degree-seeking graduate student will be dismissed after accumulating grades of F in two courses or 9 credits of unsatisfactory grades (C or F) in graduate courses. A 3.0 grade point average is required for completion of the graduate degree.

### Specific Course Assignments

Assignments	Due Dates	Points
Attendance & Participation	Ongoing	15
Infant Development Handout	Sept 26	10
Individualized Family Service Plan	Oct 24	25
Cultural Reciprocity / Home Visit Paper	Dec 5	40
Infant Toddler Core Competencies Modules	Dec 12	10
TOTAL		100

### Attendance and Participation (15 points)

Because active participation and engagement are imperative for optimal learning, preparation for and participation in in-class activities will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Students attend class, arrive on time, and stay for the entire class period.
- Students complete readings and prepare for class activities prior to class as is evidenced by their ability to discuss and write about the concepts presented and examined in the texts as well as participate fully in related activities.
- Students are actively involved in in-class and online learning experiences as is evidenced by (1) participating in all activities, (2) engaging in small and large group discussions, (3) not using laptops and other electronic devices during class time except as approved to support learning within the current class activity, (4) completing written work related to the activities, and (5) supporting the participation and learning of classmates on-line and face-to face.
- Students show evidence of critical reflective thinking through in-class and online discussions, activities, and written reflections.

**Note:** To determine whether the campus is closed due to inclement weather, call 703-993-1000 or go to [www.gmu.edu](http://www.gmu.edu).

### **Infant Development Handout (10 points-small group project)**

Students will work in small groups to summarize typical development in one developmental domain (cognitive, language, gross motor, fine motor, or social-emotional) for birth to three year olds by a) preparing a handout to share with classmates and b) briefly describing a developmental disability, disorder, or syndrome and the atypical developmental characteristics of it. The purpose is to ensure all classmates have basic knowledge and understanding of development in the early years. This information will then be used as a guide for writing an IFSP and creating developmentally appropriate intervention strategies. Students are encouraged to use the recommended reading by Chen, *Early Intervention in Action: Working across disciplines to support infants with multiple disabilities and their families* as well as other references for this project.

The following developmental phases must be addressed:

- Birth to 3 months
- 3 to 6 months
- 7 to 12 months
- 13 to 18 months
- 19 to 24 months
- 25 to 30 months
- 31 to 36 months

- a) For each developmental phase, students will provide a brief description of typical skills in the chosen domain (cognitive, language, gross motor, fine motor, or social-emotional).
- b) For one developmental disability/disorder, or syndrome, students will briefly describe it and summarize the atypical developmental characteristics.

### **Infant Toddler Core Competencies Modules (course #3 and course # 4 on <http://www.eitraining.vcu.edu>) (5 points each for a total of 10 points)**

The Infant and Toddler Connection of Virginia offers an early intervention certification through six modules that are aligned with the Infant and Toddler Core Competencies for the state of Virginia. For this class, you are required to complete and pass the module on *Service Pathways (course # 3)* and *Practitioner Requirements (course # 4)*. Students will submit a certificate of completion for each module no later than December 12 in order to earn points for this assignment. Students will be required to complete the other modules during the infant toddler internship, but are welcome to complete them at any time prior to internship. It is the student's responsibility to keep all certificates of completion to submit with the infant-toddler internship documentation.

### **Individualized Family Service Plan Development (IFSP) (25 points-small group project)**

This project is an in-class group activity. Students will be given a case study about a family with a child who is eligible to receive early intervention services.

**Part1:** Students will complete a blank IFSP form with all relevant information. Students are required to determine the family's resources, priorities, and concerns and then generate long-term outcomes (functional goals) and short-term goals for the IFSP.

- Based on the information students have about the family, they will list their resources, priorities, and concerns related to enhancing the child's development. (5 points)

- Students will write two long-term outcomes (functional goals) for the child and family. This is a statement of what the family would like to see happen as a result of early intervention services. The outcomes may be developmental goals for the child or be related to the family's ability to enhance the child's development. The outcome must be functionally stated, in family terms and measurable. (5 points)
- For each long-term outcome, students will write three short-term goals. Short-term goals are building blocks that lead to the achievement of the long-term outcome. These goals should be written from the perspective of what the child should be able to accomplish, should represent an end result, and should be functional and measurable. (8 points)

Part 2: Students will collaboratively develop an intervention activity / strategy to support an IFSP goal to implement in the case study child's natural environment. (7 points)

- What IFSP goal is addressed?
- Describe the activity / intervention
- Describe how natural learning opportunities or family routines are used to support the intervention activity
- Describe how you know the child or family made progress.

### **Application of Cultural Reciprocity in Home Visits (40 points-individual project)**

Students will apply the four steps of the cultural reciprocity process to conduct a home visit and develop a plan for a subsequent home visit. Students will conduct at least one home visit for at least one hour with a parent of a child from birth to age 3 years with special needs. Students will try to visit a family whose cultural, ethnic, or racial background is different in some way(s) from their own, and meet with both of the parents (or other caregiving adults) if possible. If the parent prefers not to meet at home, they may choose a setting that is comfortable for them, so long as it is not at the school. The purpose of the visit is to learn about the child and the family's experience, goals, hopes, and dreams for their child and use this information to develop a responsive plan for a subsequent home visit. *Students will keep in mind the four steps of the cultural reciprocity process identified below as they interact with the parents:*

Cultural Reciprocity Process	
Learn about child and family through observation and conversation	What are the family's beliefs and assumptions about the child, about child development and disability?
Reflect on your own thoughts and reactions	Reflect on your own values, beliefs, and assumptions. Explore how they are similar or different from that of the parents.
Develop a culturally responsive plan	Through discussion and collaboration, determine the most effective way of adapting professional interpretations or recommendations to the value system of this family
Explain your perspective / plan to the family	Acknowledge and give explicit respect to any cultural differences identified, and fully explain the cultural basis of the professional explanation



Some information to acquire from the family through observations and conversations during the home visit(s) includes:

The daily routine:

- What is the daily routine of the child?
- What are some activities and routines that the child and family enjoy?
- What are some activities with which the child/family has difficulty?
- What materials and toys are available and accessible to the infant/toddler?

Views on the child, child development and disability:

- How is the child viewed in the family?
- What are the family's goals, hopes and dreams for their child?
- What are the family's views on child development i.e. how the child learns and grows?
- How does the family explain the child's disability?
- How does the family explain the current services the child receives?

Cultural backgrounds and significant events:

- How does the family describe their cultural background e.g. religion, race, ethnicity?
- Has the family's cultural affiliations influenced their access to services?
- What are some significant events in the life of the child or the family members?

**Students will a) write a paper (4-6 pages double-spaced) addressing the areas listed below and b) develop a culturally responsive intervention plan for a subsequent home visit:**

- I. Briefly describe the context, participants, and interactions during the home visit. (5 points)
  - a. Where was the meeting, what was the setting like?
  - b. Who was present?
  - c. What were interactions and behaviors like between the individuals present?
  
- II. Learn about the child and family: What information was gathered about the child and the family? Organize the information under the following headings: (10 points)
  - a. The daily routine
  - b. Views on the child, child development and disability, and hopes, dreams, goals for child
  - c. Cultural backgrounds and significant events
  
- III. Reflect on your own thoughts and reactions: What did you learn about yourself through the interaction with the family? (10 points)
  - a. What were your initial assumptions about the family?
  - b. What were your initial reactions to the family?
  - c. What new information did you learn from the family?
  - d. What did you learn about the services or intervention processes from the family?
  - e. What are some dilemmas you faced in listening to the family story or in developing a plan for the next home visit?

- IV.** Develop a culturally responsive plan: Based on what you learned from the family what would be the learning objectives for the next home visit? Develop an intervention plan for the next home visit and be sure to consider how you would use the natural learning opportunities or family routines to work toward the learning objectives. (15 points) The plan will include:
- a. A brief description of the child and family
  - b. A brief description of the natural environment context in which the intervention will occur
  - c. IFSP goal(s) addressed (if information was provided) OR a learning objective
  - d. An intervention activity / strategy that is developmentally appropriate
  - e. Materials available in the natural environment
  - f. Additional materials provided (if any)
  - g. Procedures – the steps for implementing the intervention activity / strategy
  - h. Adaptations and/or accommodations
  - i. Evidence of child outcomes (how will you know the child or family made progress in acquiring a skill?)
  - j. Collaboration with family
    - How will you include the family in the activity?
    - How will you explain the plan?
    - How will you explain the child development principles that guide your thinking?
    - What individual priorities or cultural preferences will you need to consider?
  - k. Collaboration with related service providers (how will other service providers be included or support the intervention activity?)

### ECED 523: Course Schedule and Topics

Date	Topics	Readings & Assignments Due
Aug 29	Introduction, Syllabus Review, Core Principles of Early Intervention, Components of the Part C System	Ensher & Clark Introduction
Sep 5	Early Intervention Policy and Practices	IDEA policy website Ensher & Clark Chapters 1, 2
Sep 12	Service Pathway Module	<a href="http://www.eitraining.vcu.edu">http://www.eitraining.vcu.edu</a> Course # 3
Sep 19	Concepts and Skills in Family Centered Practice and Teamwork	Ensher & Clark Chapters 6, 7
Sep 26	Cross-cultural competence / cultural reciprocity	Lynch & Hanson: Chapters 2 & 3 Ensher & Clark Chapter 3 <b>Development Handout due</b>
Oct 3	Linking assessment & goal development (activity-based approach)	Pretti-Frontczak & Bricker: Ch. 3
Oct 10	Providing services in natural environments and family guided routines (activity-based approach)	Pretti-Frontczak & Bricker Ch. 5 Questions for guest speaker due
Oct 17	Guest Speaker: Early Intervention Service Provider IFSP Case Study	Ensher & Clark Chapter 7 Begin IFSP assignment
Oct 24	Individualized Family Service Plan development	Complete IFSP assignment in class <b>IFSP Due</b>
Oct 31	Practitioner Requirement Module	<a href="http://www.eitraining.vcu.edu">http://www.eitraining.vcu.edu</a> Course # 4
Nov 7	Collaboration & Consultation (Skilled Dialogue with Families) Special Issues: Siblings, Family Loss, Homelessness	Barrera & Corso: Ch 4, 5, 6 Ensher & Clark Chapters 9, 11, 12
Nov 14	Special issues: Substance abuse and neglect; Prematurity; Ongoing Needs	Ensher & Clark Chapters 4, 5, 8, 10
Nov 21	HOLIDAY	
Nov 28	Inclusive practices Working with Paraprofessionals	Ensher & Clark Chapter 13
Dec 5	Partners in Care Transition from Part C to Part B	Ensher & Clark Chapter 14 CONNECT Module (see link on blackboard) <b>Cultural Reciprocity/Home Visit paper due</b>
Dec 12	Wrap Up – EI and collaboration	<b>Certificates of Completion Due</b>

*\*Course schedule subject to change based on class needs at discretion of professor.*