George Mason University  
College of Education and Human Development  
Early Childhood Education

ECED 523.001 Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities: Collaborative and Consultative Approaches  
3 Credits, Summer 2018  
5/21 – 8/11  
Individualized Section, Fully Online

Faculty
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Prerequisites/Corequisites
None

University Catalog 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. Offered by Graduate School of Education. May not be repeated for credit.

Course Overview
Not Applicable

Course Delivery Method
This course will be delivered online (76% or more) using an asynchronous format via Blackboard Learning Management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. You will log in to the Blackboard (Bb) course site using your Mason email name (everything before @masonlive.gmu.edu) and email password. The course site will be available on May 21, 2018.

Under no circumstances, may candidates/students participate in online class sessions (either by phone or Internet) while operating motor vehicles. Further, as expected in a face-to-face class meeting, such online participation requires undivided attention to course content and communication.

Technical Requirements
To participate in this course, students will need to satisfy the following technical requirements:
- High-speed Internet access with a standard up-to-date browser, either Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox is required (note: Opera and Safari are not compatible with Blackboard).  
- Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.
• Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of course requirements.

• The following software plug-ins for PCs and Macs, respectively, are available for free download:
  - Adobe Acrobat Reader: https://get.adobe.com/reader/

**Expectations**

• **Course Week:** Because asynchronous courses do not have a “fixed” meeting day, our week will start on Monday and finish on Sunday.

• **Log-in Frequency:** Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, class discussions, and/or access to course materials at least 4 times per week.

• **Participation:** Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which includes viewing all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions.

• **Technical Competence:** Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students who are struggling with technical components of the course are expected to seek assistance from the instructor and/or College or University technical services.

• **Technical Issues:** Students should anticipate some technical difficulties during the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.

• **Workload:** Please be aware that this course is **not** self-paced. Students are expected to meet specific deadlines and due dates listed in the **Class Schedule** section of this syllabus. It is the student’s responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities and assignments due.

• **Instructor Support:** Students may schedule a one-on-one meeting to discuss course requirements, content or other course-related issues. Those unable to come to a Mason campus can meet with the instructor via telephone or web conference. Students should email the instructor to schedule a one-on-one session, including their preferred meeting method and suggested dates/times.

• **Netiquette:** The course environment is a collaborative space. Experience shows that even an innocent remark typed in the online environment can be misconstrued. Students must always re-read their responses carefully before posting them, so as others do not consider them as personal offenses. **Be positive in your approach with others and diplomatic in selecting your words.** Remember that you are not competing with classmates, but sharing information and learning from others. All faculty are similarly expected to be respectful in all communications.

• **Accommodations:** Online learners who require effective accommodations to insure accessibility must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services.
Learner Outcomes or Objectives
This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

2. Demonstrate knowledge about families, communities, and developmentally appropriate practices.
3. Describe the cultural contexts of families, including community resources, and its implications for structuring supportive interventions.
4. Discuss the social-ecological basis of early intervention.
5. Learn from families via observations, interview, and other informal evaluation techniques.
6. Demonstrate knowledge of the IFSP components, functional outcomes, and meaningful learning progressions for infants and toddlers receiving early intervention services.
7. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the home visit structure and process to provide early intervention services to infants and toddlers with identified developmental needs.
8. Describe integration of children having disabilities with peers who are typically developing.
9. Explain skills needed for consultation with families, therapists, and other early childhood educators.
10. Describe effective service coordination, interagency coordination, and transition from Part C services.
11. Identify key concepts in infant mental health and the role of early intervention in supporting infant mental health.
12. Analyze key issues and controversies confronting early intervention today.

Professional Standards (Council of Exceptional Children and National Association for the Education of Young Children)
Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards:

**CEC 4.2** Beginning special education professionals use knowledge of measurement principles and practices to interpret assessment results and guide educational decisions for individuals with exceptionalities.

**CEC 6.3** Beginning special education professionals understand that diversity is a part of families, cultures, and schools, and that complex human issues can interact with the delivery of special education services.

Recommended Texts


**Recommended Texts**

**Online Resources**
- Center for Parent Information and Resources (formerly NICHCY): [http://www.parentcenterhub.org/](http://www.parentcenterhub.org/)
- Virginia Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP): [http://www.infantva.org/pr-IFSP.htm](http://www.infantva.org/pr-IFSP.htm)
- Zero to Three (ZTT): [http://zerotothree.org](http://zerotothree.org)

**Course Performance Evaluation**
Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, Tk20, hard copy).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Early Intervention Certificate Courses – Initial Certification Modules 1-5</td>
<td>June 9</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant Development Resource</td>
<td>June 16</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and Intervention</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Part 1: IFSP</td>
<td>June 30</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Part 2: Written Intervention Plan</td>
<td>July 7</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Final upload to Tk20 (both parts in one document)</td>
<td>August 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Visit Reflection</td>
<td>July 14</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
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- **Assignments and/or Examinations**
Virginia Early Intervention Certificate Courses – Initial Certification (20 points)


The Virginia Early Intervention Professional Development Center offers an initial early intervention certification through five modules that are aligned with the Infant and Toddler Core Competencies for the Commonwealth. For this course, students are required to complete and pass the Initial Certification program, including Module 1 - Overview: Mission and Key Principles of Early Intervention, Module 2 – The Early Intervention Process, Module 3 – Effective Practices for Implementing Early Intervention, Module 4 – Responsibilities of Early Intervention Practitioners, and Module 5 – Child Development. Students must submit a certificate of completion for each module to earn points for this assignment. Students will need these certificates during internship. It is the student’s responsibility to keep all certificates of completion to submit with the infant-toddler internship documentation.

Infant Development Resource (15 points)

The purpose of this assignment is to ensure all students have basic knowledge and understanding of early development. This information will be used to guide IFSP development and to create developmentally appropriate intervention strategies. Students will summarize typical development in each developmental domain (cognitive, language, gross motor, fine motor, social-emotional) for birth to three year olds. Students will prepare a resource that describes typical characteristics and skills in the domains (cognitive, language, gross motor, fine motor, social-emotional) in the following developmental ranges:

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

Students may use the template provided on Blackboard to organize their resource. Students are encouraged to use recommended readings and online resources to support this work, remembering that they must list all supporting references in APA format in the Resource.

Home Visit Reflection (20 points)

The purpose of this assignment is to provide students with an opportunity to (a) conduct a home visit with a child having special needs and (b) apply the cultural reciprocity process to reflect on the experience.

Students will conduct at least one 1-hour home visit with a parent of a child, birth to age three with special needs. The purpose of the visit is to learn about the child; to learn about the family’s experience, goals, hopes, and dreams for their child; and to use collected information to develop a culturally responsive intervention plan for a subsequent home visit. Students will aim to visit a family whose cultural, ethnic, or racial background is different in some way(s) from their own and meet with parents (or caregiving adults). If parents prefer not to meet at home, students might suggest another setting that is comfortable, so long as it is not at the child’s school. Students may conduct home visit in pairs, if the family agrees.
Students will keep in mind the four steps of the cultural reciprocity process as they learn about the child and family on the home visit:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultural Reciprocity Process</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learn about child and family through observation and conversation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflect on your own thoughts and reactions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a culturally responsive plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explain your perspective / plan to the family</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students should gather the following information during the home visit and summarize it in an 8- to 10-page, double-spaced paper that includes the following:

**Context, Participants, and Interactions**
Where was the meeting? Describe the setting. Who was present? Describe the relationship of each individual to the child and/or family. Describe the behaviors and interactions between the individuals present.

**Family Values, Beliefs, and Assumptions**
Family’s cultural background and significant events. How does the family describe their cultural background (e.g., religion, race, ethnicity)? What are some significant events in the life of the child or the family members?

**Child Daily’s Routine**
What is the child’s typical daily routine? What are some activities 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 child? What other individuals does the child interact with and where?

**Family’s Views on the Child, Early 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 early development (e.g., how the child learns and grows)? How does the family explain the child’s special needs, delays, or disability? How does the family explain the current services the
child receives? Has the family’s cultural affiliations influenced their access to services?

Student Values, Beliefs, and Assumptions
Describe your cultural background. Describe significant events in your life that influence your perspective. Describe your impression of the child’s role in the family. What are your expectations for this child and how are they shaped by your knowledge of early development and early intervention?

Reactions
What were your initial assumptions about the family, the child, and the child’s special needs? What were your initial reactions to the family, the child, and the child’s special needs? How did you reconcile differing assumptions and reactions? What are some dilemmas you faced in listening to the family story? What information from this home visit will you use to develop a culturally responsive intervention plan and why? Based on what you learned, list potential two functional learning outcomes for the next home visit.

Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and Intervention (30 points)
This Key Assessment 10 Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and Intervention Plan shows evidence of meeting CEC Standard Elements 4.2 and 6.3. This assignment must be submitted to Tk20 through Blackboard for a final grade to be recorded. The assessment description and scoring rubric are attached.

• Other Requirements

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 (a) participating in all activities, (b) engaging in small- and large-group discussions, (c) completing written work related to the activities, and (d) supporting the participation and learning of classmates.
• Students show evidence of critical reflective thinking through in-class and online discussions, activities, and written reflections.
• Professional dispositions are to be displayed at all times while interacting with the instructor and other students. Cell phones are not to be used during class. Laptops are to be used for instructional purposes only.

Written Assignments
All formal written assignments 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 website at http://infoguides.gmu.edu/content.php?pid=39979. 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.
5. Type the paper with double spacing, indented paragraphs, 1-inch margins all around, and 12-point Times New Roman font.

- **Grading**

A = 95-100   A- = 90-94   B+ = 87-89   B = 80-86   C = 70-79   F = <70

Incomplete (IN): This grade may be given to students who are passing a course but who may be unable to complete scheduled coursework for a cause beyond reasonable control.

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.

**Professional Dispositions**

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times. See https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/.
# Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 5/21-5/57</td>
<td>Early Intervention and Legislation</td>
<td>Readings</td>
<td>Virginia Early Intervention Certificate Courses – Modules 1-5 (DUE 6/9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 6/4-6/10</td>
<td>Early Intervention Process and Assessment</td>
<td>Readings</td>
<td>IFSP Part One (DUE 6/30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 6/11-6/17</td>
<td>IFSP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5 6/18-6/24</td>
<td>Service Delivery – Family Coaching</td>
<td>Readings</td>
<td>IFSP Part Two (DUE 7/7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6 6/25-7/1</td>
<td>Service Delivery – Embedded Interventions and Inclusive Practices</td>
<td>Readings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7 7/2-7/8</td>
<td>Transition and Key Issues in Early Intervention</td>
<td>Readings</td>
<td>Home Visit Reflection (DUE 7/14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeks 8-12</td>
<td>No Class-Upload Parts One and Two of the IFSP to TK20</td>
<td></td>
<td>IFSP TK20 (DUE 8/4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

**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: [http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/](http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/).

**GMU Policies and Resources for Students**

**Policies**
• Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/).

• Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/).

• Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.

• Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see http://ods.gmu.edu/).

• Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be silenced during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources
• Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to tk20help@gmu.edu or https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to http://coursessupport.gmu.edu/.
• For information on student support resources on campus, see https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus.

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website: https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/.