

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

ECED 503.004 Inclusive Curriculum for Young Learners: Planning Instruction and Guidance
3 Credits, Fall 2019

8/26 – 12/18, Tuesdays & Thursdays/ 10:30 – 11:45 am
Thompson Hall L019, Fairfax Campus

Faculty

Name: Bweikia Steen, EdD
Office Hours: By appointment
Office Location: Thompson Hall 1101, Fairfax Campus
Office Phone: (703) 993-5321
Email Address: bsteen2@gmu.edu

Prerequisites/Corequisites

None

University Catalog Course Description

Explores principles of learning, curriculum development, and relationship between assessment and instruction. Examines role of play and active exploration in learning. Addresses guiding children's behavior and the role of families and culture in children's learning. Notes: Field experience required.

Course Delivery Method

This course will be delivered using a lecture and discussion format.

Learner Outcomes or Objectives

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Describe theoretical frameworks guiding early childhood curriculum approaches and practices.
2. Use principles of learning and knowledge of individual children's development, abilities, and prior knowledge to plan meaningful instruction and select, develop, and use appropriate curricula, methodologies, and materials, including media and contemporary technologies, that support and enhance student learning and reflect the research on unique, age-appropriate, culturally relevant curriculum and pedagogy for diverse young children, including English learners, children who are gifted and talented, and children with disabilities.
3. Describe and use the principles of online learning, online instructional strategies, and technology to enhance curriculum development and student learning.
4. Describe strategies to modify and manage learning environments, experiences, and instructional practices that are sensitive to culturally, linguistically, and ability diverse learners, including English learners, children who are gifted and talented, and children with disabilities.
5. Identify teaching methods that promote student engagement, student academic progress, and effective preparation for the Virginia Standards of Learning assessments.
6. Explain the role of families in child development and the child's education, strategies for communicating with families regarding the social and instructional strengths and needs of

children, and strategies for increasing family engagement in student learning at home and school and in the preparation of the Virginia Standards of Learning assessments.

7. Explain how meaningful, intentional instruction and curriculum activities with diverse young children in informal, play-mediated, and/or discipline-specific (i.e., drama, English, mathematics, movement, music, history and social science, science, computer technology, visual and performing arts) settings help learners develop knowledge and basic skills, sustain intellectual curiosity, problem-solving skills, and specific learning outcomes as reflected in the *Virginia Standards of Learning* and *Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning: Comprehensive Standards for Four-Year-Olds*.
8. Explain how to plan for differentiated instruction and flexible groupings in prekindergarten through third-grade classrooms to meet the needs of diverse young learners at different stages of development, abilities, and achievement, including English learners, children who are gifted and talented, and children with disabilities.
9. Explain how individualized education programs (IEPs) are developed and implemented by multidisciplinary teams.
10. Identify intervention strategies and techniques, including tiered instruction, that facilitate functional and developmentally appropriate cognitive, social and emotional, speech and language, motor, and self-help development for diverse young children, including English learners, children who are gifted and talented, and children with disabilities.
11. Discuss service delivery options for children with disabilities that support success and functionality in all settings where same-age, typically developing peers would be located.
12. Describe various school crisis management and safety plans and how to create a safe, orderly, inclusive classroom environment in a developmentally appropriate manner that engages individual children in meaningful learning activities and social interactions.
13. Describe research-based classroom and behavior management techniques, classroom community building strategies, positive behavior supports, and individual interventions, including techniques that promote emotional well-being and teach and maintain behavioral conduct and skills consistent with norms, standards, and rules of the educational environment.
14. Describe diverse, age-appropriate classroom and behavior management approaches based on culturally responsive behavioral, cognitive, affective, social, and ecological theory and practice that support professionally appropriate practices that promote positive redirection of behavior, development of social skills, and development of self-discipline.
15. Identify age-appropriate techniques, informed by learning principles and knowledge of child development, that maintain a positive learning environment, build responsibility, and teach social and emotional skills, including self-discipline and self-regulation, to individual children and groups of children to assist with behavior management.
16. Exhibit standards of professionalism, ethical standards, and personal integrity with children, families, and professionals in the field experience setting and in interactions with classmates, the instructor, the field experience coordinator, and others.
17. Use writing as an instructional and assessment tool to generate, gather, plan, organize, and to communicate for a variety of purposes; integrate correct written conventions (i.e., grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling); and format using current APA style.

Childhood (DEC) Standards, and National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Standards

Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards:

Virginia Professional Studies Requirements

Curriculum and Instruction
Classroom and Behavior Management
Supervised Clinical Experiences

Virginia Early Childhood Special Education Endorsement Competencies

Instructional Programs for Early Intervention
Behavior Management
Supervised Experiences

Virginia Early/Primary Education PreK-3 Endorsement Competencies

Methods

CEC Standard Elements

CEC 1.2 Beginning special education professionals use understanding of development and individual differences to respond to the needs of individuals with exceptionalities.

CEC 2.1 Beginning special educators through collaboration with general educators and other colleagues create safe, inclusive, culturally responsive learning environments to engage individual with exceptionalities in meaningful learning activities and social interactions.

CEC 3.1 Beginning special education professionals understand the central concepts, structures of the discipline, and tools of inquiry of the content areas they teach, and can organize this knowledge, integrate cross-disciplinary skills, and develop meaningful learning progressions for individuals with exceptionalities.

CEC 5.1 Beginning special educators consider an individual's abilities, interests, learning environments, and cultural and linguistic factors in the selection, development, and adaptation of learning experiences for individual with exceptionalities

CEC 5.3 Beginning special educators are familiar with augmentative and alternative communication systems and a variety of assistive technologies to support the communication and learning of individuals with exceptionalities

NAEYC Standard Elements

NAEYC 3d Knowing about assessment partnerships with families and with professional colleagues to build effective learning environments

NAEYC 4a Understanding positive relationships and supportive interactions as the foundations of their work with children

NAEYC 4b Knowing and understanding effective strategies and tools for early education, including appropriate uses of technology

NAEYC 5a Understanding content knowledge and resources in academic disciplines: language and literacy; the arts – music, creative movement, dance, drama, visual arts; mathematics; science, physical activity, physical education, health and safety; and social studies

Required Texts

- American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. ISBN: 9781433805615
- Bullard, J. (2017). *Creating environments for learning: Birth to age 8* (3rd ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education. ISBN: 9780134014555
- Kostelnik, M., Soderman, A., & Whiren, A. (2015). *Developmentally appropriate curriculum: Best practices in early childhood education* (6th ed.). Columbus, OH: Pearson Education. ISBN: 9780133351774

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).

Assignments	Due Dates	Points
Attendance & Participation	Ongoing	25
Child Guidance Philosophy Statement	Oct. 3	15
Field Experience		20
• Field Experience Placement Approval Form	Sept. 12	1
• Field Experience Documentation Form (after completion of Field Experience hours)	Nov. 21	4
• Field Experience Observation and Reflection	Nov. 21	15
Instructional Lesson Plan		40
• Part 1: Introducing and Considering the Child	Oct. 3	10
• Part 2: Establishing Positive Relationships and Instructional Strategies	Oct. 31	10
• Part 3: Developing a Lesson Plan	Nov. 21	20
Compiled Instructional Plan due to Tk20 through Bb	Dec. 11	
TOTAL		100

• Assignments and/or Examinations

Child Guidance Philosophy Paper (15 points)

Students will work write a seven- to ten-page paper describing their classroom child guidance and behavior management philosophy and plan. Students will use textbook readings, in-class discussions, and professional/peer-reviewed readings to support their plan. Students will include a discussion of the following:

- Statement of strengths-based approach to child guidance and behavior management,
- Overall plan for child guidance strategies to ensure student success,
- Plan for behavior management, and
- Specific strategies to be used in the classroom.

Students will submit this paper and save it for use later in the ECE program.

Field Experience (20 points)

This course requires a minimum of 15 hours field experience. Students in the Early Childhood Special Education Licensure Concentration will complete their field experience in a preschool special education classroom setting. Students in the Early/Primary Education PreK-3 Licensure

Concentration will complete their field experience in a prekindergarten through third-grade classroom setting. To initiate this assignment, students will visit <https://cehd.gmu.edu/endorse/ferf> and complete the online “Field Experience Request Form.” On the form, they will be asked to indicate how their placement will be arranged. Students have two options for fulfilling their field placement requirement.

Option 1:

- Students may arrange their own field experience if they are a full-time contracted school system employee and are able to complete their field experience in a prekindergarten or kindergarten classroom at their workplace.

Option 2:

- Students may request placement in a prekindergarten or kindergarten general education or special education setting through the field placement office <https://cehd.gmu.edu/endorse/ferf>.
- The field placement office will arrange placement for students in a specific school with a specific teacher.

Documenting the Field Experience (5 points)

- Students will upload the **Field Experience Placement Approval Form**. In this form, they will provide a statement confirming that they have completed the online “Field Experience Request form” and they will provide information to the instructor about where and how they will complete the field experience (1 point).
- Upon completion of their field experience hours, students will provide documentation of their experience (4 points).
 - If they completed the field experience within their own setting (requires instructor approval), they will upload the **On-the-Job Placement Documentation Form** to Blackboard. This form requires verification from the assistant principal or principal on site.
 - If they completed a field placement other than where they work, they will upload the **Field Experience Documentation Form** to Blackboard. This form requires verification from the mentor teacher on site.

Students will exhibit standards of professionalism, ethical standards, and personal integrity throughout the Field Experience process with the instructor, field experience coordinator, classroom teacher, students, administrators, etc. Students will refer to Blackboard for CEC, DEC, and NAEYC standards in early childhood education and early childhood special education.

Field Experience Observation and Reflection (15 points)

Students will develop a five- to seven-page report that discusses the following points about the early childhood education classroom setting observed during the field experience:

- Overview of the classroom arrangement;
- Description of meaningful curriculum activities observed and how they reflect the various developmental areas/domains or curriculum content areas;
- Differentiation of instruction and flexible grouping among the general population of early childhood learners, including English learners, children who are gifted and talented, and children with disabilities;

- Specific classroom and behavior management techniques, classroom community building, positive behavior supports, and individual interventions observed, including techniques that promote emotional well-being for each child, including English learners, children who are gifted and talented, and children with disabilities; and
- Suggestions for enhancing the curriculum, classroom environment, and behavior management strategies that are consistent with norms, standards, and rules of the educational environment and include English learners, children who are gifted and talented, and children with disabilities.

Students will cite current research from the course textbooks, class discussions and handouts, and/or other relevant peer-reviewed sources to support the information they provide. They will use in-text citations, include a reference list per APA style guidelines, and use correct written conventions.

Instructional Plan (40 points)

The Key Assessment 3 Ability to Plan Appropriate Teaching and Learning Experiences: Instructional Lesson Plan shows evidence of meeting CEC and NAEYC Standards. This assignment must be submitted to Tk20 on Blackboard. See the attached assessment description and scoring rubric.

- **Other Requirements**

Attendance and Participation (25 points)

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

- Students attend class, arrive on time, and stay for the entire class period.
- Students use laptops and personal devices for instructional purposes only.
- Students complete readings and prepare for class activities prior to class as 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 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.
- Students display professional dispositions at all times while interacting with the instructor and other students.
- Students complete participation activities across the semester that complement the scheduled course topic. Instructors will periodically collect artifacts from the activities. Students in attendance and who actively engage in the learning experience will receive credit for their efforts. Graded participation activities are not announced and are implemented at the discretion of the instructor.

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 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 seeking Virginia initial teaching licensure must earn a B- or better in all licensure coursework.

Professional Dispositions

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

Class Schedule

Date	Topics	Readings & Assignments Due
Week 1 Aug. 27	Introductions Syllabus and Assignments Review Online Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online instructional strategies • Technology for curriculum development and student learning 	DEC/NAEYC Early Childhood Inclusion Joint Statement NAEYC Developmentally Appropriate Practice Position Statement
Aug. 29	Introduction to Inclusive Curriculum and Instruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developmentally appropriate practices • Including English learners, children who are gifted and talented, and children with disabilities 	DEC Recommended Practices
Week 2 Sept. 3	Theoretical Frameworks	Read: Kostelnik et al., Introduction Bullard, Chapters 1 and 2
Sept. 5	Principles of Learning and Knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedagogy • Meaningful instruction • Curricula • Methodologies • Materials • Contemporary technologies 	
Week 3 Sept. 10	Child Guidance and Classroom and Behavior Management for Diverse Young Learners	Read: Kostelnik et al., Chapter 6 Bullard, Chapters 3 and 4
Sept. 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developmentally appropriate expectations • Safe, orderly, inclusive classrooms • School crisis management and safety plans Child Guidance Assignment Discussion	Due to Bb – Field Experience Approval Form

Date	Topics	Readings & Assignments Due
Week 4 Sept. 17	Child Guidance and Classroom and Behavior Management for Diverse Young Learners	Read: Bullard, Chapters 4, 5
Sept. 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive behavior supports and individual interventions • Research-based classroom and behavior management techniques • Classroom and behavior management within the context of development and culture • Positive redirection • Self-discipline and self-regulation <p>Review Instructional Plan Part 1</p>	
Week 5 Sept. 24	Classroom Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building positive relationships and classroom community 	Read: Kostelnik et al., Chapter 5
Sept. 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting social and emotional development • Building responsibility in young learners • Organizing space and materials • Physical layout of classroom • Inclusive settings, including English learners, children who are gifted and talented, and children with disabilities 	Read: Bullard, Chapter 7 Bring rough draft- Instructional Lesson Plan- Part 1: Introducing and Considering the Child
Week 6 Oct. 1	Child Development in Instruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developmental domains (cognition, language and communication, motor, social emotional, self-help) 	Read: Kostelnik et al., Chapters 1, 2
Oct 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influences of individual differences, including English learners, children who are gifted and talented, and children with disabilities • Content areas (reading and English, mathematics, history and social sciences, science) • Arts • Integration across developmental domains and content areas 	Read: Bullard, Chapter 6 Due to Bb – Child Guidance Philosophy Statement paper Due to Bb – Instructional Lesson Plan Part 1: Introducing and Considering the Child

Date	Topics	Readings & Assignments Due
Week 7 Oct. 8	Using Standards to Guide Practice for Diverse Young Learners, Including English Learners, Children Who Are Gifted and Talented, and Children With Disabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virginia Standards of Learning • Virginia’s Foundation Blocks for Early Learning • Context of National, State, and Local Standards • Preparation for Virginia Standards of Learning assessments 	Read: Kostelnik et al., Chapters 3, 4
Oct. 10	Planning and Implementing Instruction for Diverse Young Learners, Including English Learners, Children Who Are Gifted and Talented, and Children With Disabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement • Student academic progress • Contemporary technologies • Instructional strategies Developing Lesson Plans: Standards and Objectives	
Week 8 Oct. 15 (No class)		

Date	Topics	Readings & Assignments Due
Oct. 17	<p>Meaningful, Intentional Instruction for Diverse Young Learners, Including English Learners, Children Who Are Gifted and Talented, and Children With Disabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal • Play-mediated • Discipline-specific instruction that prepares diverse young learners to meet local and national standards and prepares them for the Virginia Standards of Learning assessments • Integrated across disciplines • Engaging curiosity and problem solving <p>Developing Lesson Plans: Materials and Context</p>	<p>Read: Kostelnik et al., Chapter 15</p> <p>Instructional Lesson Plan Part 2- Rough draft: Establishing Positive Relationships and Instructional Strategies</p>
<p>Week 9 Oct. 22</p>	<p>Planning and Implementing Instruction for Diverse Young Learners, Including English Learners, Children Who Are Gifted and Talented, and Children With Disabilities</p>	<p>Read: Kostelnik et al., Chapter 7</p>
Oct. 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructional strategies to meet the needs of diverse young learners • Strategies to modify and manage environments and instruction for diverse young learners (e.g., culture, linguistic, ability) • Differentiated instruction and flexible grouping • Overview of the development and implementation of IEPs and service delivery options • Use of tiered instruction and Response to Intervention (RTI) <p>Developing Lesson Plans: Tasks, Methods, Strategies; Accommodations and Modifications</p>	<p>Read: Bullard, Chapter 9</p>

Date	Topics	Readings & Assignments Due
Week 10 Oct. 29	Assessing and Evaluating Diverse Young Children’s Learning, Including English Learners, Children Who Are Gifted and Talented, and Children With Disabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal and informal assessments • Virginia Standards of Learning assessments 	Read: Kostelnik et al., Chapter 8
Oct. 31	Role of Families in Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies for communicating with families • Strategies for increasing family engagement at home and school • Building relationships with young children and families Developing Lesson Plans: Assessment	Due to Bb – Instructional Lesson Plan Part 2: Establishing Positive Relationships and Instructional Strategies
Week 11 Nov. 5	Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum Development and Implementation: Aesthetic and Affective Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructional strategies to meet the needs of diverse young learners, including English learners, children who are gifted and talented, and children with disabilities 	Read: Kostelnik et al., Chapters 9, 10
Nov. 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies to modify and manage environments and instruction for diverse young learners (e.g., culture, linguistic, ability), including English learners, children who are gifted and talented, and children with disabilities • Differentiated instruction and flexible grouping for diverse young learners, including English learners, children who are gifted and talented, and children with disabilities 	Instructional Lesson plan part 3- rough draft: Developing a Lesson Plan

Date	Topics	Readings & Assignments Due
Week 12 Nov. 12	Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum Development and Implementation: Cognitive and Language Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructional strategies to meet the needs of diverse young learners, including English learners, children who are gifted and talented, and children with disabilities 	Read: Kostelnik et al., Chapters 11, 12
Nov. 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies to modify and manage environments and instruction for diverse young learners (e.g., culture, linguistic, ability), including English learners, children who are gifted and talented, and children with disabilities • Differentiated instruction and flexible grouping for diverse young learners, including English learners, children who are gifted and talented, and children with disabilities 	
Week 13 Nov. 19	Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum Development and Implementation: Physical and Social Emotional Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructional strategies to meet the needs of diverse young learners, including English learners, children who are gifted and talented, and children with disabilities 	Read: Kostelnik et al., Chapters 13, 14
Nov. 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies to modify and manage environments and instruction for diverse young learners (e.g., culture, linguistic, ability), including English learners, children who are gifted and talented, and children with disabilities • Differentiated instruction and flexible grouping for diverse young learners, including English learners, children who are gifted and talented, and children with disabilities 	<p>Due to Bb – Instructional Lesson Plan Part 3: Developing a Lesson Plan</p> <p>Due to Bb – Field Experience Documentation Form</p> <p>Due to Bb – Field Experience Observation and Reflection Paper</p>

Date	Topics	Readings & Assignments Due
Week 14 Nov. 26	Curriculum and Instructional Planning, Short- and Long-Term Planning for Diverse Young Learners, Including English Learners, Children Who Are Gifted and Talented, and Children With Disabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating domain-specific content across the curriculum • Preparing for the Virginia Standards of Learning assessments Progress monitoring for growth and behavior for diverse young learners, including English learners, children who are gifted and talented, and children with disabilities	Read: Kostelnik et al., Chapter 16
Nov. 28 No Class		
Week 15 Dec 3	Health and Nutrition during the early years	Read: Articles posted on Bb
Dec. 5	Putting all the pieces together <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum • Instruction • Assessment • Parental Involvement 	
Dec 9-10	Reading Days – No class meeting	
Week 16 Dec 11	Exam Period – No class meeting	Due to Bb – Upload Instructional Lesson Plan to Tk20

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/>.

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/>.