

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

ECED 781.600 Seminar in Early Childhood Education
3 Credits, Spring 2023, Synchronous Online
3/13/2023–5/7/2023, Thursdays/ 5:00-7:40 pm

Faculty

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Note: At this time it is best to reach me via email to schedule a phone or zoom meeting

Required Prerequisites

ECED 788 or 789

May be taken concurrently.

University Catalog Course Description

Provides opportunities to evaluate and reflect upon instructional practices and interactions with culturally, linguistically, socioeconomically, and ability diverse young children, their families, and other professionals. Examines evidence-based practices used in early childhood settings to manage the environment, guide behavior, and provide instruction that responds to each child's strengths, needs, and interests. Emphasizes professionalism and foundations of early education and care.

Course Delivery Method

This course will be delivered using a hybrid lecture/discussion format and Blackboard (Bb).

Learner Outcomes or Objectives

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

1. Describe the legal status of teachers and students, including federal and state laws and regulations; school as an organization/culture; contemporary issues and current trends in education, including technology in education; local, state, and federal governance of schools, including the roles of teachers and schools in communities; and *Virginia's Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers*.
2. Discuss and reflect on examples from student teaching of various school crisis management and safety plans and identify ways they have worked to create a safe, orderly, inclusive classroom environment that engages individual children, including children with diverse abilities, in meaningful learning activities and social interactions.
3. Examine and discuss examples from student teaching of research-based classroom and behavior management techniques, classroom community building, 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.

4. Examine and discuss examples from student teaching of 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.
5. Identify and reflect on strategies used during student teaching that demonstrate effective classroom management skills through methods that build responsibility and self-discipline, promote self-regulation, and maintain a positive learning environment.
6. Identify, examine, and discuss examples of modifying and managing the learning environments and experiences during student teaching to meet the individual needs of children, including children with disabilities, gifted children, children who are English learners, and children with diverse cultural backgrounds.
7. Identify, examine, and discuss a variety of age-appropriate techniques used during student teaching, informed by learning principles and knowledge of child development, that teach social and emotional skills to individual children and groups of children to assist with behavior management.
8. Provide examples from student teaching of the ways data were collected, analyzed, and used to inform instruction and guide children's behavior.
9. Discuss and reflect on evidence-based instructional practices implemented during student teaching that promoted positive learning outcomes for young children.
10. Discuss and reflect on ways they differentiated instruction in their student teaching experience to respond to the individual strengths, needs, and interests of young children.
11. Reflect critically on their practice and collaborations and discuss ways they engage in continuous learning.
12. Explain and reflect on how historical, philosophical, and sociological foundations underlying the role, development, and organization of public education in the United States influence current teaching practices and environments and discuss and reflect on ways to navigate school environments.
13. Exhibit and reflect on standards of professionalism, ethical standards, and personal integrity with children, families, and professionals in the field and in interactions with classmates, the instructor, the field experience coordinator, and others.
14. 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.

Professional Standards

Virginia Professional Studies Competencies, Virginia Early Childhood Special Education Endorsement Competencies, Virginia Early/Primary Education PreK-3 EPK3 Endorsement Competencies, Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC) Standards, Division of Early Childhood (DEC) Professional Preparation Standards, and National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Professional Standards and Competencies

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

Virginia Professional Studies Requirements
Classroom and Behavior Management
Foundations of Education and the Teaching Profession

Virginia Early Childhood Special Education Endorsement Competencies
Behavior Management
Standards of Professionalism

Virginia Early/Primary Education PreK-3 Endorsement Competencies
Methods

Required Texts

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. ISBN: 9781433832161
Fields, M., Merritt, P., & Fields, D. (2018). *Constructive guidance and discipline: Birth to age eight* (7th ed.). Pearson. ISBN: 9780134547916

Required Online Documents

Division for Early Childhood. (2020). Initial Practice-Based Professional Preparation Standards for Early Interventionists/Early Childhood Special Educators (EI/ECSE) (Initial birth through age 8). Retrieved from https://d4ab05f7-6074-4ec9-998a-232c5d918236.filesusr.com/ugd/95f212_6e8952cda15f48b3935a7729dddc50d.pdf?index=true

National Education Association for the Education of Young Children. (2020). Professional standards and competencies for early childhood educators. Retrieved from https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/resources/position-statements/professional_standards_and_competencies_for_early_childhood_educators.pdf

National Association for the Education of Young Children. (2019). *NAEYC position statement: Advancing equity in early childhood education*. Retrieved from <https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/resources/position-statements/naeycadvancingequitypositionstatement.pdf>

Virginia Department of Education. (2021). Virginia's guidelines for uniform performance standards and evaluation criteria for teachers. Retrieved from https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/performance_evaluation/teacher/index.shtml

Virginia Department of Education. (2016-17). Virginia tiered systems of support frequently asked questions: What is VTTS? What are the big implementation ideas? What is pre-mapping? Retrieved from <https://vtss-ric.org/all-educators/>

Course Performance Evaluation

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

Assignments	Due Date	Points
Attendance and Participation	Ongoing	25
Assignment 1: Building Relationships and Creating Supportive Environments	April 2	15
Assignment 2: Targeted Social Emotional Supports	April 23	15
Assignment 3: Intensive Intervention	May 7	20
Assignment 4: Data-Based Decision Making and Reflection	May 7	25
TOTAL		100

- **Assignments and/or Examinations**

All assignments will be submitted in two places:

- within assignment submission section for the instructor to grade and
- within the course discussion board to share with peers.

All assignments in this course can be completed by selecting one of the following options or a self-selected option (note: students are welcome to select a different option for each assignment):

Option 1: Vlog

- Create a video that is no more than 7 minutes using screen recording software such as Kaltura.

Option 2: Flyer or Informational Brochure

- Create a one-page flyer or informational brochure.

Option 3: Student-Selected Option

- Student choice of presenting resources

Students will post on discussion board to share with peers and within the assignments link for the instructor to grade. Students will review peer resources via the discussion board, comment on at least two peer posts by identifying (a) how their artifact is similar and/or different and (b) suggestions of other ways to use the artifact.

Assignment 1: Building Relationships and Creating Supportive Environments

Review materials within the NCPMI website

(<https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/Training/Module/index.html>) by clicking on preschool and then selecting download and review **module 1 materials** (PowerPoint slides, videos, and handouts). Students will select two resources to share with peers through a vlog, flyer, or self-selected option (see above). Students will include (a) a visual of each item (screen share, picture, etc.), (b) a summary of each resource, (c) why this resource was selected, and (d) how the resource can be used in the classroom. Students will post this to the discussion board and assignments link on Blackboard. Students will comment on at least two peers' posts and include

(a) how their artifact is similar and/or different and (b) suggestions of other ways to use the artifact.

Assignment 2: Targeted Social Emotional Supports

Review materials within the NCPMI website

(<https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/Training/Module/index.html>) by clicking on preschool and then selecting download and review **module 2 materials** (PowerPoint slides, videos, and handouts). Students will select two resources to share with peers through a vlog, flyer, or self-selected option (see above). Students will include (a) a visual of each item (screen share, picture, etc.), (b) a summary of each resource, (c) why this resource was selected, and (d) how this resource can be used in the classroom. Students will post this to the discussion board and assignments link on Blackboard. Students will comment on at least two peers' posts and include (a) how their artifact is similar and/or different and (b) suggestions of other ways to use the artifact.

Assignment 3: Intensive Intervention

Review materials within the NCPMI website

(<https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/Training/Module/index.html>) by clicking on preschool and then selecting download and review **module 3 materials** (PowerPoint slides, videos, and handouts). Students will select two resources to share with peers through a vlog, flyer, or self-selected option (see above). Students will include (a) a visual of each item (screen share, picture, etc.), (b) a summary of each resource, (c) why this resource was selected, and (d) how this resource can be used in a classroom. Students will post this to the discussion board and assignments link on Blackboard. Students will comment on at least two peers' posts and include (a) how their artifact is similar and/or different and (b) suggestions of other ways to use the artifact.

Assignment 4: Data-Based Decision Making and Reflection

This assignment has two parts. In part one, students will practice developing an informal measure to collect data on how children are responding upon implementation of one of the selected artifacts. In part two, students will practice developing and collecting fidelity of implementation data. In each measure students will include at least three observable skills (child progress monitoring measure) and fidelity of implementation steps (procedural steps). In part two, students will use the table provided to guide a reflection on use or future use of each artifact selected. Students will describe what each artifact/practice is, analyze why each one is important, judge its success, and discuss its application. Students will create a vlog, word document, or self-selected option that contains the information below. Students will post this within the discussion board and assignments link on Blackboard.

Part 1

Child Progress Monitoring Measure

Child Acronym:				
Date:				
Observable skills				

Fidelity of Implementation

Teacher Acronym:			
Date:			
Procedural Steps	Yes	No	Not Applicable

Part 2

Items	Describe	Analyze	Judge	Apply
Artifact 1:				
Artifact 2:				
Artifact 3:				
Artifact 4:				
Artifact 5:				
Artifact 6:				

Attendance and Participation (25 points)

Active participation and engagement are imperative for optimal learning. Therefore, students will prepare for and participate in in-class and online activities. Students will be expected to do the following:

- Attend class, arrive on time, and stay for the entire class period for all in-person and online synchronous class sessions.
- Complete all online asynchronous work by the due dates.
- Use laptops and personal devices for instructional purposes only during in-person and online synchronous class sessions.
- Complete readings and prepare for class activities prior to class as evidenced by the ability to discuss, write about, and engage in activities related to the concepts presented and examined in the texts.
- Complete participation activities across the semester that complement the scheduled course topic. *Note: Instructors will periodically collect artifacts from the activities.*
- Support the participation and learning of classmates. 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.

- Show evidence of critical reflective thinking through in-person, online synchronous, and online asynchronous discussions, activities, and written reflections.
- Display professional dispositions at all times when interacting with the instructor, classmates, and other professionals.
- Submit an attendance and participation self-evaluation.

Written Assignments

All formal written assignments will be evaluated for content and presentation. The American Psychological Association, Seventh 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 enrolled in a CEHD Licensure Graduate Certificate program, however, must earn a B- or better in all graduate 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

Date	Topics	Readings and Assignments Due
<p>Week 1</p> <p>Mar 16</p>	<p>Orientation to course</p> <p>Introduction to Pyramid Model</p> <p>Professionalism, Ethical Standards, and Personal Integrity</p> <p>Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers</p> <p>Knowledge and understanding of Virginia's Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers</p>	<p>Review resources and watch video here: https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/Pyramid/overview/index.html</p> <p>Review Evidence Based Practices here: https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/Pyramid/practices.html</p> <p>Review Suspension and Expulsion resources here: https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/Pyramid/suspension.html</p> <p>DEC Code of Ethics: https://www.decdocs.org/member-code-of-ethics</p> <p>NAEYC Position Statement: Advancing Equity in Early Childhood Education, Pages 1-9: https://www.naeyc.org/resources/position-statements/equity</p> <p>VDOE - Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers</p>
<p>Week 2</p> <p>Mar 23</p>	<p>Supporting All Diverse Young Learners</p> <p>Tier One: Building Relationships and Creating Supportive Environments for Classroom Management and Routines in Inclusive Classrooms</p> <p>Considering Guidance and Discipline of Diverse Young Children in the Classroom</p>	<p>Review the four blue inclusion tabs and resources here: https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/Pyramid/inclusion/index.html</p> <p>DEC Frameworks for Response to Intervention in Early Childhood: Description and Implications: https://www.decdocs.org/position-statement-frameworks</p> <p>Review Emergencies and National Disasters here: https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/emergency/index.html</p> <p>Fields et al., Chapters 1-3</p>
<p>Week 3</p> <p>Mar 30</p>	<p>Effect of Physical, Emotional, Social, and Intellectual Development on the Behavior and</p>	<p>Due on Bb by April 2: Assignment 1: Building Relationships and Creating Supportive Environments</p>

	Discipline of Diverse Young Children	
Apr 6		FCPS Spring Break, no class
Week 4 Apr 13	Tier Two: Targeted Social Emotional Support for Guidance and Discipline of Young Children in the Classroom Classroom Management: Environment, Routines, and Discipline Programs in Inclusive Classrooms	DEC Position Statement on Child Maltreatment: https://www.decdocs.org/position-statement-child-maltreatme Fields et al., Chapters 4, 6, 15
Week 5 Apr 20	Meeting the Diverse Needs of Young Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culturally responsive approaches • Addressing children’s stress and vulnerabilities 	Due to Bb by April 23: Assignment 2: Targeted Social Emotional Supports
Week 6 Apr 27	Tier Three: Intensive Intervention	DEC Position Statement on Challenging Behavior: https://www.decdocs.org/position-statement-challenging-beha Review five Behavior Intervention resources here: https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/Pyramid/pbs/index.html DEC/NAEYC Joint Position Statement on Inclusion: https://www.decdocs.org/position-statement-inclusion
Week 7 May 4	Implementing Evidence-Based Instructional Practices *Date by which all remaining assignments must be submitted*	Due to Bb by May 7: Assignment 3: Intensive Intervention Due to Bb by May 7: Assignment 4: Data-Based Decision Making and Reflection

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 <https://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://ds.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 VIA should be directed to viahelp@gmu.edu or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/assessments>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>.

Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking: As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Non-Confidential Employee” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per [University Policy 1202](#). If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as [Student Support and Advocacy Center](#) (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance or support measures from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730 or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.

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