

**George Mason University**  
**College of Education and Human Development**  
**Early Childhood Education for Diverse Learners**

ECED 522.001 Developing Language, Literacy, and Communication  
of Diverse Infants and Toddlers  
3 Credits, Fall 2023, Hybrid  
8/21/2023-10/8/2023, Mondays/ 5:30-8:10 pm  
Thompson Hall L019, Fairfax Campus

**Faculty**

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**Prerequisites**

ECED 401 or 501. Prerequisites require a minimum grade of C for undergraduate courses and B- for graduate courses.

**University Catalog Course Description**

Examines instructional strategies, resources, and technologies, including assistive technologies, to develop language, literacy, and communication of diverse infants and toddlers. Explores monolingual and multilingual language acquisition, cultural and linguistic diversity, and language delays and disorders. Focuses on the importance of adult-child interaction and the role of the family in children's language, literacy, and communication development. Note: Field experience required.

**Course Delivery Method**

This course will be delivered using a student teaching format and Blackboard (Bb).

**Learner Outcomes or Objectives**

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

1. Describe the complex nature of language and communication acquisition (e.g., developmental stages) as a precursor to literacy and the typical and atypical development of linguistic competence in the areas of phonetics, semantics, syntax, morphology, phonology, and pragmatics (i.e., use of language to get needs and wants met and use of functional communication for social interaction).
2. Describe the effects of disabling and at-risk conditions on the speech and language development of infants and toddlers, including dual language learners.
3. Describe the effects of cultural and linguistic diversity and English language acquisition for dual language learners on speech and language development in infants and toddlers.
4. Identify effective speech and language intervention methods for infants and toddlers, including dual language learners, experiencing disabling and at-risk conditions and their families.

5. Select, develop, and use appropriate curricula, methodologies, and materials, including media and contemporary technologies, that support and enhance learning for infants and toddlers and reflect the research on unique, age-appropriate, and culturally relevant curriculum and pedagogy.
6. Use strength-based language to discuss factors (e.g., social, cultural, linguistic, family, socioeconomic, affective, cognitive, and educational) that play a role in monolingual and multilingual language acquisition and literacy learning (reading and writing) in children with varied abilities and from diverse cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.
7. Identify and discuss formal and informal assessment as screening, diagnostic, and progress monitoring measures of speech and language development.
8. Exhibit standards of professionalism, ethical standards, and personal integrity with children, families, and professionals in the field and in interactions with classmates, the instructor, and others.
9. 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**

Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC) Standards, Division of Early Childhood (DEC) Professional Preparation Standards, National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Professional Standards and Competencies, and Virginia Professional Studies Competencies

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

### **Virginia Professional Studies Competencies**

Language and Literacy

### **Virginia Early Childhood Special Education Endorsement Competencies**

Speech and Language Development and Intervention Methods

### **Required Readings**

Readings for this course are posted to Blackboard.

### **Recommended Texts**

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Author. ISBN: 9781433832178

McCauley, R., Fey, M., & Gillam, R. (2017). *Treatment of language disorders in children* (2nd ed.). Brookes ISBN: 9781598579796

Shanahan, T., & Lonigan, C. (2013). *Early childhood literacy: The national early literacy panel and beyond*. Brookes ISBN: 9781598571158

Vukelich, C., Enz, B., & Roskos, K. A., & Christie, J. (2020). *Helping young children learn language and literacy: Birth through kindergarten* (5th ed.). Pearson. ISBN: 9780134866598

## 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 Dates	Points
Attendance & Participation	Ongoing	25
Language Delays and Effective Methods of Intervention Pamphlet and Presentation	8/28	10
Language and Literacy Annotated Bibliography	10/7	10
Embedded Vocabulary Instruction Plan	10/7	15
Language Analysis Project		40
• Part 1: Description of the Child	9/17	10
• Part 2: Embedded Interventions	9/24	10
• Part 3: Progress Monitoring and Fidelity of Implementation System	10/1	10
• Part 4: Class Presentation (DB)	10/2	10
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>

- **Assignments and Examinations**

### Language Analysis Project (40 points)

Students will select an infant or toddler with exceptional language learning needs and/or is a dual or multi language learner OR will use materials provided by the instructor. Students will collect and analyze information about the child's background and language, literacy, and communication development. Students will use this information to recommend appropriate interventions to support the child's language, literacy, and communication development.

#### *Part 1: Description of the Child (10 points)*

Students will write a three- to four-page description of the focus child that includes pertinent background information (e.g., age, gender, family members, linguistic and cultural background, nature of the exceptional language learning and/or dual language needs, etc.). Students will write a description of the child's language, literacy, and communication development and explain how they assessed the child, including:

- The approaches to assessment used (e.g., observations, play-based assessment, assessment during instructional interactions, etc.).
- The information gathered from others and from whom was it gathered (e.g., parent, caregiver, teacher, etc.)
- Describe and analyze the child's language, literacy, and communication development.
- Describe the impact of the interaction of culture and home language on the child's language development and communication.
- Discuss the ways in which exceptional and/or dual language needs interact with the child's use of language, literacy, and communication.

Students will cite current research from the course textbooks, class discussions and handouts, and/or other relevant sources to support their conclusions and assertions. Students will use in-text citations and include a reference list using APA format.

***Part 2: Embedded Interventions (10 points)***

Based on the language, literacy, and communication analysis, students will identify a specific goal and outcome, and describe three embedded and naturalistic language strategies (e.g., modeling, expansions, environmental arrangement, mirror map) that support the child's communication, language, and later literacy development. Students will develop an activity matrix to identify how educators (e.g., parents, teachers) within the child's everyday environment will intentionally embed the naturalistic language strategies within everyday activities and routines. Students will also identify how they, as an educator (e.g., teacher, early intervention provider), will coach others (e.g., parents, teachers) to use the embedded language strategies during everyday routines through adult learning strategies (coaching) such as modeling, providing practice opportunities, providing feedback, problem solving, and reflection.

Students will cite current research from the course materials, class discussions and handouts, and/or other relevant sources to support their conclusions and assertions. Students will use in-text citations and include a reference list using APA format.

***Part 3: Progress Monitoring and Fidelity of Implementation System (10 points)***

Students will identify and provide at least one copy of a progress monitoring system and fidelity of implementation system that can be used to monitor the child's language development. Students will include a description of the progress monitoring system(s) and the fidelity of implementation system by identifying how they will be used and who will collect the data, as well as the rationale for using them.

Students will cite current research from the course textbooks, class discussions and handouts, and/or other relevant sources to support their conclusions and assertions. Students will use in-text citations and include a reference list using APA format.

***Part 4: Class Presentation (10 points)***

Students will present a brief overview of what they learned about their focus child (Part 1) and will share their recommendations from Parts 2 and 3.

**Language Delays and Effective Methods of Intervention Pamphlet and Presentation (10 points)**

Students will work with a partner to create a pamphlet about the language development of children with a specific delay, disorder, or medical condition. The pamphlet will include a brief description of the medical condition or disability, background information and research, possible effects on language and literacy development, suggested interventions promoting language and literacy development, issues and controversies, and professional and support organizations. Students will work together to create a recorded presentation and share it with their peers via the discussion board. Students will engage with one another by responding to each group and facilitating discussion within their own group.

Students will cite current research from the course textbook, class discussions and handouts, and/or other relevant sources to support their conclusions and assertions. Students will use in-text citations and include a reference list using APA format.

### **Embedded Vocabulary Instruction Plan (15 points)**

Students will identify three to five children's books that are culturally, linguistically, and developmentally appropriate for diverse infants and toddlers and their families, with one book in a language other than English, and both of which are appropriate for dialogic reading (appropriate illustrations). The assignment will include the following information:

- Complete an accurate bibliographic information to include title, author, illustrator, copyright date, city of publication, and publisher.
- Clear and concise descriptions of high-quality books that include sufficient detail for readers to gain a clear understanding of (a) the content of the book (such as genre, repetitive phrases, rhyme, etc.) and (b) evidence of diversity
- For one of the books, students will identify:
  - Five tier-two target vocabulary that are illustrated in the book
  - A child friendly definition of each target vocabulary
- For the five tier-two target vocabulary identified, students will:
  - Complete the activity matrix template to identify how they will embed key vocabulary from the book into book reading (dialogic reading), a child directed activity, an adult directed activity, and a routine activity
  - Complete the UDL table to identify how access, participation, and inclusion will be promoted specifically within vocabulary instruction
  - Complete the MTSS table to identify how differentiated supports will be provided to attain the key vocabulary
  - Create a progress monitoring system
  - Create a fidelity of implementation system

### **Language and Literacy Annotated Bibliography (10 points)**

Students will work independently to identify five peer-reviewed publications related to early language and literacy development and/or intervention. For each publication, students should provide a one paragraph summary including the purpose, summary, and implications. All publications should be cited using APA format.

- **Other Requirements**

### **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. 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

Class Meeting Dates	Topics	Readings & Assignments Due
<b>Module One:</b>		
8/21	<p>Syllabus and Course Overview</p> <p>Language Development in the Context of Families and Culture</p> <p>Language Acquisition in the Infant and Toddler Years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stages of typical development</li> <li>• Atypical development in young children</li> </ul> <p>Connection Between Language Acquisition and Other Developmental Domains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cognitive development</li> <li>• Social and emotional development</li> </ul> <p>Language as the Foundation for Literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phonetics</li> <li>• Semantics</li> <li>• Syntax</li> <li>• Morphology</li> <li>• Phonology</li> <li>• Pragmatics of Language               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Use of language to get needs and wants met</li> <li>○ Use of functional communication for social interaction</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><a href="#"><i>Virginia's Early Learning and Development Standards: Language, Communication, and Literacy</i></a></p> <p>Letting Children Take the Lead</p> <p>Bb video resources (e.g., Early Language, The Word Gap, Still Face Experiment)</p> <p>Autism Spectrum Disorder Resources</p> <p>Instructor Presentation and Study Guide</p> <p>Sign up for presentation</p> <p><b>Due to Bb (8/21): In-Class Participation Activity</b></p>
<b>Module Two:</b>		
8/28	<p>Language Delays and Effective Methods of Intervention Pamphlet and Presentation</p> <p>Language Rich Environments</p>	<p>Zauche et al., 2016</p> <p>Greenwood et al., 2011</p> <p>Judge et al., 2010</p>

Class Meeting Dates	Topics	Readings & Assignments Due
	Curricula, Methodologies, and Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence-based</li> <li>• Age-appropriate</li> <li>• Culturally relevant pedagogy</li> <li>• Multitiered Levels of Support</li> <li>• UDL</li> </ul>	Coogle et al., 2021  Review Frameworks for Response to Intervention in Early Childhood: Description and Implications DEC Recommended Practices  Literacy Rich Environments Video  ELO Example  ELO Table  Instructor Presentation and Study Guide  <b>Due to Bb (8/28): In-Class Participation Activity</b>  <b>Due in class (8/28): Language Delays and Effective Methods of Intervention Pamphlet and Presentation</b>
<b>LABOR DAY HOLIDAY</b>		
9/4	No class, Labor Day	
<b>Modules Three</b>		
9/11	Speech and Language Development Assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Screening</li> <li>• Diagnostic</li> <li>• Progress monitoring</li> </ul>	<a href="#">A Guide to Assessment in Early Childhood by Washington State</a>  <a href="#">Technical Assistance Paper 4: Developmental Screening, Assessment, and Evaluation: Key Elements for Individualizing Curriculum in Early Head Start</a>  Instructor Presentation and Study Guide  <b>Due to Bb (9/11): In-Class Participation Activity</b>



Class Meeting Dates	Topics	Readings & Assignments Due
		<b>Due to Bb (9/17): Language Analysis Project Part 1: Description of the Child</b>
<b>Module Four</b>		
9/18	Effective Speech and Language Intervention Methods Early Language Interventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routines-based intervention</li> <li>• Evidence-based practices</li> <li>• Responding to cultural and linguistic diversity</li> <li>• Interventions when working with families</li> </ul>	Instructor Presentation and Study Guide  ELOs Table  Kid Talk Tactics Manual  Coogle et al., 2014  Coogle et al., 2020  Lane et al., 2016  Embedded Instruction Video  ECTA Practice Checklists DEC Recommended Practices  <b>Due to Bb (9/18): In-Class Participation Activity</b>  <b>Due to Bb (9/24): Language Analysis Project Part 2: Embedded Interventions</b>
<b>Module Five:</b>		
9/25	Dual and Multi-Language Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects of cultural and linguistic diversity on language acquisition</li> <li>• Using strengths-based language to describe and discuss language development in young children</li> <li>• Reviewing language and literacy development and interventions</li> </ul>	Additional Bb Resources  Chen & Shire, 2011  Gillanders & Castro, 2011  <b>Due to Bb (9/25): Participation Activity</b>  <b>Due to Bb (10/1): Language Analysis Project Part 3: Progress Monitoring and Fidelity of Implementation System</b>
<b>Module Six:</b>		

Class Meeting Dates	Topics	Readings & Assignments Due
10/2	Developing Language & Literacy Through Children's Literature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting and enhancing speech and language development</li> <li>• Representing cultural and linguistic diversity in literature</li> <li>• Using appropriate methodologies materials to enhance student learning</li> </ul>	Flynn, 2011  Instructor Presentation and Study Guide  <b>Due in Class (10/2): Language Analysis Project Part 4: Class Presentation</b>  <b>Due to Bb (10/7): Language and Literacy Annotated Bibliography</b>  <b>Due to Bb (10/7): Embedded Vocabulary Instruction Plan</b>

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](mailto: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](mailto:titleix@gmu.edu).

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