ECH 100 Fundamentals of Early Childhood  
Prerequisite: None  
3 Credit Hours (Lecture)

Department:

Early Childhood

Course Description:

This course will present basic information and help develop skills needed to work with young children in an early care and education program in northeast Kansas. The course will cover professional guidelines, information related to child growth and development, recognizing and reporting suspected child abuse or neglect, and the steps in preparing for National Child Development Associate (CDA) credentialing. The course will also include observing operations in an approved early care and education program in northeast Kansas. Students will also complete a Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) background check, provide a copy of a current physical exam and TB test results, and become first aid/CPR certified. In order to work in the early childhood field, students must pass the KBI check and document successful physical exam and TB test results.

Course Competencies:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Summarize the process for documenting and reporting suspected child abuse and neglect in Kansas.
2. Submit copies of first aid/CPR certification, completed physical exam results, current TB test results, and KBI background check results.
3. Locate and discuss the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) childcare licensing regulations, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) code of ethical conduct, and the Kansas early learning standards.
4. Develop a chart depicting normal developmental milestones for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.
5. Practice appropriate food handling procedures.
6. Provide documentation of at least 15 hours observing young children in a group setting.
7. Describe the CDA credentialing process and create the format for the CDA Portfolio.

Course Content:

A. The Early Childhood Field
   1. Brief history
   2. NAEYC
   3. Developmentally appropriate practice (DAP)
   4. First aid/CPR certification
   5. Recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect
B. Basic Child Growth and Development
1. Defining the young child
2. Developmental domains
3. Spheres of influence
4. Appropriate learning activities for young children

C. Teaching: a Professional Commitment
   1. Partnering with parents and families
   2. Overview of national, state, and local guidelines and rules for working with young children
   3. Earning the CDA

D. Learning to Read the Child
   1. Observing young children
   2. Observing and recognizing quality environments for young children
   3. Curriculum essentials

Learning Assessments:

Course competencies will be assessed by attendance, participation, completion of first aid/CPR certification, written assignments, oral and demonstration exercises.

Instructional Materials:


Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

In order to begin the process all students must complete the “Disabilities Self-Identification Form” at this link: https://highlandcc.edu/pages/disability-services.

This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.