Department:

Early Childhood

Course Description:

This course is designed for practitioners who work with children and families. Students will develop skills for quality observation and documentation associated with young children. Ethical considerations and confidentiality are discussed. Students will conduct an in-depth child study. Students must identify a child and set up and conduct observations. Students will also conduct structured observations targeting specific developmental areas. Students will create a professional report illustrating the developmental level of the child. The child portfolio will include completed checklists, work samples, pictures, and interviews.

Course Competencies:

The following competencies are taken from the Kansas and Missouri Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals (2001).

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

1. Acknowledge that children develop at their own rate.
2. Assist with collection of information about each child’s development.
3. Maintain confidentiality between the program and the child’s family regarding each child’s observation and assessment.
4. Identify ways to get to know each child as an individual.
5. Collect and organize information about each child.
6. Follow appropriate procedures of child development.
7. Communicate observations in written and oral form.
8. Apply basic elements of child development theory to observation.
9. Avoid actions that would cause physical and emotional harm.
10. Complete developmental checklists.
11. Complete multiple objective observations.
12. Identify specific behaviors exploring causes and goals.
13. Interpret observations.
14. Synthesize observation information into a report.
15. Communicate with families using the report and the child portfolio.

Course Content:

A. Unlocking the Door: The Keys to Observation
   1. Observation
   2. Anecdotal Records
3. Checklists and Rating Scales
4. Structured Observation
5. Visual Documentation
6. Parent Questionnaire and Background Information

B. Understanding Child Development: Developmental Concepts and Sequences
   1. Physical and Motor Development
   2. Cognitive Development
   3. Social Development
   4. Emotional Development
   5. Language and Literacy Development
   6. The Creative Arts

C. Interpreting Observations: Theoretical Perspectives
   1. Cognitive and Language Theory
   2. Social, Emotional and Creative Theory

D. Putting It All Together
   1. Writing the Reports
   2. Preparing and presenting the Child Study

**Learning Assessments:**

Students will be evaluated by attendance, participation, formal observations, a completed child study, and activities

**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.