



Applied Child Development

Course Syllabus

Course Description

Have you ever felt frustrated by a student's lack of engagement or at wits end with chronic behavior issues? Often challenges such as these arise from a misalignment between what the student is being asked to do and what they are developmentally capable of. If so, you are not alone. More often than not, education programs do not sufficiently train their graduates on the practical aspects of child development. If these experiences sound familiar, Applied Child Development is the course for you.

The purpose of this professional development course is to provide you with an applied understanding of three key areas of child development: cognitive, metacognitive, and social-emotional. Understanding the developmental trajectories in these critical areas will allow you to provide an evidence-based classroom environment and learning experiences that meet your students where they are.

This course enhances classroom teaching effectiveness and supports improved student outcomes by introducing new knowledge in applied child development, focusing on cognitive, metacognitive, and social-emotional growth to create developmentally appropriate learning environments.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Recognize the elements and characteristics of cognitive, metacognitive, and social-emotional development.
2. Describe the principle tenets and applications of behaviorism and social learning theory.
3. Describe the principle tenets and applications of psychoanalytical development theory and cognitive development theory.
4. Describe the principle tenets and applications of sociocultural theory and ecological systems theory.
5. Describe the principle tenets and applications of information processing theory and other emerging developmental theories.
6. Identify developmentally appropriate experiences that support the maturation of self-regulation and other executive functions.
7. Identify developmentally appropriate experiences that support the maturation of grit and resilience in support of well-being.
8. Identify developmentally appropriate experiences that support the maturation of a growth mindset in support of learning.



Modules

- Module 1: Framing Development, Quiz 1
- Module 2: Behaviorism and Social Learning Theory, Quiz 2
- Module 3: Psychoanalytical and Cognitive Development Theories, Quiz 3
- Module 4: Sociocultural and Ecological Systems Theories, Quiz 4
- Module 5: Information Processing and Emerging Developmental Theories, Quiz 5
- Module 6: Self Regulation and Executive Functions, Quiz 6
- Module 7: Grit, Resilience, & Well Being, Quiz 7
- Module 8: Growth Mindset, Quiz 8

Grading:

Each quiz must be passed at an 80% or higher (three attempts allowed).

Format

This is a self-paced, asynchronous (no required live meetings) course. Throughout the PD course, you will find it helpful to take notes along the way to assist with the quizzes. Within each module, you will find reflection assessments that are not graded but will help in your journey through the course. There is an interactive forum in the course to help you connect with peers and instructors, share ideas, and collaborate on best practices throughout your learning journey.