

2024-2025 Assessment Plan

Early Childhood Education

Mission

Since 1995, the Early Childhood Education program at ATCC has been preparing early childhood professionals to respond to the individual needs of children and their families. The courses are designed to allow the student to work up the career ladder in the child development employment areas of center-based settings, Head Start programs, schools, and preschools. Through E-LECT (E-Learning for Early Childhood Teachers), online, credit-based Child Development courses are available as alternative options to the traditional classroom setting. Our overall mission is to educate and prepare the newest generation of early childhood educators who are prepared to work in a variety of settings and/or seek advanced degrees in teaching and other human services professions.

2024-2025

Early Childhood Education Learning Outcomes

Health and Safety

Students will identify safety hazards in and around the childcare setting, characteristics of common childhood illnesses, and indicators and reporting procedures involving child abuse and neglect. Students will instruct children in personal safety awareness and describe universal (standard) precautions and infection control. Students will explain rest and relaxation techniques. Students will plan, prepare, and explain the importance of nutritionally balanced meals and snacks.

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Cognitive Development

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Students will explain cognitive development stages and how they correlate to social, emotional, and physical development. Students will provide examples of cognitive development and describe equipment and activities that promote cognitive development. Students will identify learning opportunities and conditions that develop creative and critical thinking and recognize the factors that impact brain development. Students will identify important theories and research involving cognitive development.

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Language Development and Communication

Students will describe the stages of language development, strategies to encourage expressive and receptive language, various methods of story presentation, and factors affecting language development. Students will identify materials that encourage and support literacy skills and demonstrate effective literacy strategies.

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Physical Development

Students will explain the stages of fine and gross motor development and recognize the factors that impact physical development. Students will describe strategies and conditions that encourage physical development and select age-appropriate indoor and outdoor play equipment and activities for physical development. Students will describe the effects of play on children's physical development and explain how physical development correlates to social, emotional, and cognitive development.

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Social and Emotional Development

Students will discuss teaching techniques that encourage the development of positive self-concept and describe the stages of social and emotional development of children. Students will recognize the factors that impact social and emotional development and discuss caregiving techniques that develop appropriate social skills. Students will identify positive techniques for conflict resolution and mediation and list strategies to promote self-help skills and autonomy.

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Community and Family Relationships

Students will describe the importance of cooperative relationships with families. Students will identify and plan methods of family and community involvement and describe the components of effective school and home communication.

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Observation, Documentation, and Assessment

Students will identify observation purposes, techniques, and tools. Students will observe and record children's developmental learning. Students will interpret, communicate, and apply observation results.

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Professionalism

Students will identify career-related skills, employment opportunities, resources for professional development, and the importance and legal mandates of confidentiality. Students will recognize the need for self-assessment for continued professional growth and explain the role of a child advocate. Students will exhibit appropriate characteristics in an educational team setting and apply the NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct to professional practices.

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Classroom Organization and Arrangement

Students will arrange an age-appropriate classroom environment and prepare and maintain materials and equipment storage. Students will identify characteristics of a balanced daily schedule and implement developmentally appropriate activities. Students will describe a variety of transition-time activities and demonstrate awareness of licensing laws and regulations. Students will identify recordkeeping and clerical functions in a childcare setting.

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Creativity

Students will identify strategies for facilitating creative experiences and appropriate materials and equipment that encourage creative development. Students will display or present creative products and explain sensory activities and supporting materials.

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Diversity in the Classroom

Students will identify components of a diverse, multicultural curriculum. Students will display awareness of diversities in family structures and describe ways to incorporate children's home language and traditions.

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Inclusion of Children with Special Needs

Students will identify characteristics of various types of exceptionalities and identify concerns and basic rights of children with special needs. Students will differentiate the learning environment and curriculum to accommodate special needs.

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Positive Guidance Techniques and Reinforcement

Students will demonstrate positive adult-child communication. Students will describe positive classroom management and identify child guidance techniques.

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