

Understanding Children
FCS 2610, Tuesdays, 4:35-8:00 p.m.
Summer Semester, 2005

Instructor: Erin Trenbeath-Murray, MS (977-1122 ext. 412)
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Office Hours: By appointment

Texts: Challenging Behavior in Young Children
by Barabara Kaiser & Judy Rasminsky

Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs
Serving Children Birth Through Age 8.
by The National Association for the Education of Young Children

Overview: This class is designed to examine the environments in which children develop; the family, the school, and the culture. Topics to be explored include environmental issues related to behavior (guidance and discipline, families in transition, environmental stressors, child care, parent involvement in schools, the media, special needs children, and child advocacy/public policy.) Discussions will focus on theory, research and practice concerning the development, behavior, and learning of young children.

Requirements: Grade will be assigned on the following basis:

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| 1. Class participation and attendance. | 5% |
| 2. Program Visits | 20% |
| 3. Midterm Exam | 25% |
| 4. DAP Evaluation/Program Observation | 25% |
| 5. Final Exam | 25% |

Course Schedule
Understanding Children, Summer 2005

<u>Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	
Understanding Children in an Ecological Context		May 17
Nature <u>and</u> Nurture, Temperament, and the Family Brain Development		May 24
Developmentally Appropriate Practices and Importance of Play		May 31
Home School/Cultural Influence C.F.D.C. Program Visit Due		June 7
Child Self-Concept and Children At-Risk, Guest Lecturer – Nicole Droitsch, Public Relations, Salt Lake CAP Head Start		June 14
The Classroom Environment and Its Influence on Behavior Midterm Exam		June 21
Basic Guidance Techniques		June 28
Prosocial Behavior, Guest Lecturer – Patty McComb, MS, Special Education – Jennifer Godfrey, MSW Head Start Visit Due		July 5
WEVAS Study		July 12
Factors Impacting Families Child Care, the Media, Gender Equity Program Observation Due		July 19
Abuse and Neglect, Guest Lecturer - MaryKay Borders, MS R.N. The Early Childhood Profession and Advocacy,		July 26
Final Exam		Aug. 2

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**Summer Semester, 2005
Required Readings**

Chapter reading assignments are from Challenging Behavior in Young Children.
Bolded readings are from Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP).

Chapter 1: What is Challenging Behavior?	May 17
Chapter 2: Risk Factors	May 24
Chapter 3: Protective Factors	
Chapter 4: Behavior and the Brain	May 31
Part 1 DAP	
Chapter 5: Understanding Yourself	June 7
Part 2 DAP	
Chapter 6: Family and Culture	June 14
Chapter 7: Preventing Challenging Behavior Space and Program	June 21
Midterm	June 28
Chapter 8: Preventing Challenging Behavior in the Social Context	
Chapter 9: Guidance and Punishment	July 5
Part 3 DAP	
Chapter 10: The WEVAS Strategy	July 12
Chapter 11: Functional Assessment	July 19
Chapter 12: Working with Families	July 26
Chapter 13: Bullying	August 2