

UNDERSTANDING CHILDREN
FCS 2610, Tuesdays, 2:00-4:30pm
Fall Semester, 2007

Instructor: Cheryl Wright, Ph.D. (581-7712)
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Office: RM 228 Alfred Emery Building
Office Hours: 8:30-9:30 M,T or by appointment

Texts : *Challenging Behavior in Young Children*
Barbara Kaiser & Judy Rasminsky

*Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood
Programs Serving Children Birth through Age 8.*
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 & 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.

Preschool Participation: Students interested in early childhood licensure and child life are REQUIRED to take this class with a lab FCS 2620 (3 hours of credit). Lab classes are Monday through Friday, morning (8:00-12:00) or afternoon (12:30-4:30); students are assigned to one class one day a week. The lab is an opportunity for students to integrate lecture material with practical experience, working with young children under supervision.

Requirements: Grade will be assigned on the following basis:

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| 1. | Class participation and attendance | 10% |
| 2. | Outlines/Reactions/Creative Projects | 15% |
| 3. | Midterm Evaluation | 25% |
| 4. | DAP Evaluation/Program Observation | 25% |
| 5. | Final Evaluation | 25% |

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
Understanding Children: Fall 2007

CLASS	TOPIC
AUG 21	INTRODUCTION/Course Requirements Understanding Children in an Ecological Context
AUG 28	ENVIRONMENTAL & HEREDITARY INFLUENCE Temperament/Family
SEPT 4	PREVENTION: PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT Tricks of the trade
SEPT 11	PROTECTIVE FACTORS Observation PROGRAM INFORMATION DUE
SEPT 18	BRAIN DEVELOPMENT OUTLINES/REACTIONS/CREATIVE PROJECTS DUE
SEPT 25	DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE PRACTICE
OCT 2	MIDTERM EXAM
OCT 9	Fall Break
OCT 16	FAMILIES AND CULTURE
OCT 23	PREVENTION: SOCIAL CONTEXT
OCT 30	GUIDANCE/ SPANKING
NOV 6	CHALLENGING CHILDREN: STRATEGIES PROGRAM REPORT DUE
NOV 13	INCLUSION OUTLINES/REACTIONS/CREATIVE PROJECTS DUE
NOV 20	HOME/SCHOOL INTERFACE
NOV 27	BULLYING/ CHILD ABUSE ISSUES
DEC 5	CHILD ADVOCACY: Early Childhood Resources
DEC 11	FINAL EXAM (1-3pm)