

**CAP Course Outline Recommendations**  
**Principles and Practices of Teaching Young Children** (Revised June 2020)

**Course Description:**

Historical contexts and theoretical perspectives of developmentally appropriate practice in early care and education for children birth through age eight. Explores the typical roles and expectations of early childhood educators. Identifies professional ethics, career pathways, and professional standards. Introduces best practices for developmentally appropriate learning environments, curriculum, and effective pedagogy for young children including how play contributes to children's learning, growth, and development.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Compare and contrast historical and current early childhood education settings, issues, and perspectives.
2. Explain how foundational knowledge of child development and learning theories inform environments, pedagogy, and interactions in early care and education settings.
3. Identify the roles, requirements, and responsibilities of early childhood teachers as professional educators.

**Objectives:**

1. Describe historical and current issues and approaches for early care and education.
2. Differentiate between various types of programs in relation to the ages served, regulations, and teacher requirements.
3. Identify the role of an early childhood educator including intentional teaching, ethics, personal philosophy, and professionalism.
4. Identify and compare the developmental stages and needs of children, birth through age eight.
5. Describe developmentally appropriate practices and the value of play.
6. Compare and contrast principles of positive guidance and interactions.
7. Connect theories of learning and development to early childhood environment design, curriculum, and teaching strategies.
8. Explain the ongoing curriculum cycle of observation, planning, implementation, and assessment.
9. Identify supports for dual language learners in developing English language and literacy skills for children birth through age eight including support for the home language.

**Course Content and Topics:**

1. **Historical and Current Approaches**
  - a. Theories of development and learning
  - b. Educational philosophies
  - c. Types of Programs
    - i. Ages served
    - ii. Governance, licensing, and regulations
    - iii. Personnel requirements

## **CAP Principles and Practices of Teaching Young Children (cont'd)**

- d. Developmentally Appropriate Practice
- e. State and national standards for quality and content

### **2. Introduction to the Profession of Early Childhood Teaching**

- a. Teacher's Knowledge
  - i. Child development
  - ii. Teaching approaches
  - iii. Foundations of the academic disciplines they will be teaching (e.g., language and literacy, the arts, mathematics, social studies, science, technology and engineering, physical education)
  - iv. State and national standards
  - v. Professional and ethical conduct
- b. Teacher's Personal Qualities
  - i. Flexibility
  - ii. Tolerance
  - iii. Patience
  - iv. Critical thinking
  - v. Physical ability
  - vi. Mental health
  - vii. Self-Reflection
  - viii. Awareness of personal attitudes and bias
- c. Teacher's Role
  - i. Relationships and interactions with children, families, and others
  - ii. Planning and evaluating curriculum
  - iii. Intentional Teaching
  - iv. Creating supportive environments
  - v. Cultural competency
    - 1. Dual Language Learners
    - 2. Families
    - 3. Staff
  - vi. Communication strategies and purposes
    - 1. Teacher-child interactions and focused conversations
    - 2. Partnering with families
    - 3. Positive guidance
    - 4. Supervision of other adults in the classroom
- d. Professional Growth
  - i. Philosophy of teaching
  - ii. Professional Development
  - iii. Professional Memberships and Affiliations

iv. Career Pathways

**3. Children's Development Birth through Eight**

- a. Physical
- b. Cognitive
- c. Language
- d. Social
- e. Emotional
- f. Influences on development
  - i. Heredity and Environment
  - ii. Families
  - iii. Culture
  - iv. Teachers
  - v. Communities

**4. Introduction to Developmentally Appropriate Teaching and Learning Environments**

- a. Elements of Early Childhood Environments
  - i. Indoor and outdoor design and uses of physical space
  - ii. Routines
  - iii. Equipment and materials
  - iv. Emotional climate
  - v. Relationship to curriculum goals
  - vi. Impacts on behavior
  - vii. Health, safety, and nutrition
  - viii. Family involvement spaces
  - ix. Adjusting for ages, abilities, and interests
  - x. Staffing/Zoning
- b. Early Childhood Teaching
  - i. Introduction to developmentally appropriate approaches
  - ii. The ongoing cycle of observation, planning, observation, and assessment
  - iii. Effective pedagogy for young children
    - 1. The importance of relationships
    - 2. Play-based teaching and learning
      - a. Teacher-guided
      - b. Child-initiated
    - 3. Positive guidance and discipline
    - 4. Typical learning trajectories in different domains of development and their implications for curriculum design
    - 5. Supports for dual language learners
    - 6. Modification for individual needs