

Child Development/Child Care

Child Development/Child Care Degrees and Certificates

Child Development and Child Care, Associate in Applied Science

The Child Development and Child Care degree is designed to provide students with a foundation in research-based approaches to early childhood education, child development theory, fieldwork and the use of best practices in teaching and caring for children from birth to the age of five years old. The program prepares students for employment in early childhood group care and related environments.

For additional information, contact faculty advisor, Lisa Stein, at (609) 343-4960 or lstein@atlanticcape.edu or department chair, Dr. Beth Sanders-Rabinowitz, at (609) 343-4982 or bsanders@atlanticcape.edu.

Upon completion of this program students will be able to:

- Analyze major theories of child development with emphasis on similarities and differences and the interaction of the five learning domains and models from infancy through age five. This includes: cognitive language and communication, social and emotional approaches to learning and physical motor development;
- Evaluate family and community characteristics in relation to their role in the economic, political and cultural institutions of society to stimulate growth and learning;
- Apply the goals, benefits and uses of assessment using observation, documentation and other appropriate assessment tools and approaches.
- Recognize and apply effective approaches, strategies and tools to positively influence young children's development and learning;
- Articulate and uphold ethical standards and other professional guidelines and engage in informed advocacy for children and the profession;
- Document young children's development and apply the documentation to curriculum development.

(CDCH – Fall 2023)

General Education Courses

When a course is not specified, refer to the list of approved General Education courses.

Communication

Course #	Title	Credits
ENGL101	Composition I	3
ENGL102	Composition II	3

Mathematics-Science-Technology

Course #	Title	Credits
	General Education Mathematics Course (4 credits)	4
	General Education Science Course (4 credits)	4

Social Science

Course #	Title	Credits
EDUC/PSYC110	Child Development: Theory and Practice	4
SOCL101	Principles of Sociology	3

Humanities

Course #	Title	Credits
ARTS115	Introduction to the Visual Arts	3

Program Courses

Course #	Title	Credits
CDCC/EDUC103	Roles of the Early Childhood Professional	2
CDCC104	Infant and Toddler Development: Theory and Applications	3
CDCC105	Early Childhood Health, Safety, Nutrition and Special Needs	4
CDCC106	Early Childhood Social/Emotional Development	3
CDCC/EDUC115	Planning the Preschool Curriculum	3
CDCC250	Infant/Toddler Practicum	3
EDUC/CDCC252	Early Childhood Practicum	3
ENGL218	Literature for Children	3
PSYC140	Principles of Guidance for Parents and Teachers	3
PSYC/EDUC226	Psychology of Exceptionality	3
	Choose CISM290-Instructional Technology for Educators or CISM125-Introduction to Computers (3 credits)	3
	Choose SPAN111-Elementary Spanish I or SGNL101-American Sign Language (3 credits)	3

Technological Competency: 0-4 Credits

(Is fulfilled with CISM125, CISM132, testing, or reviewed departmental portfolio.)

Total Credits	60
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Recommended Sequence of Courses

First Semester

Course #	Title	Credits
CDCC/EDUC103	Roles of the Early Childhood Professional	2
EDUC/PSYC110	Child Development: Theory and Practice	4
ENGL101	Composition I	3
	Choose CISM290-Instructional Technology for Educators or CISM125-Introduction to Computers (3 credits)	3
	General Education Mathematics Course (4 credits)	4

Second Semester

Course #	Title	Credits
CDCC104	Infant and Toddler Development: Theory and Applications	3
CDCC105	Early Childhood Health, Safety, Nutrition and Special Needs	4
CDCC/EDUC115	Planning the Preschool Curriculum	3
ENGL102	Composition II	3
	Choose SPAN111-Elementary Spanish I or SGNL101-American Sign Language (3 credits)	3

Third Semester

Course #	Title	Credits
ARTS115	Introduction to the Visual Arts	3
CDCC106	Early Childhood Social/Emotional Development	3
CDCC250	Infant/Toddler Practicum	3
ENGL218	Literature for Children	3
PSYC140	Principles of Guidance for Parents and Teachers	3

Fourth Semester

Course #	Title	Credits
EDUC/CDCC252	Early Childhood Practicum	3
PSYC/EDUC226	Psychology of Exceptionality	3
SOCL101	Principles of Sociology	3
	General Education Science Course (4 Credits)	4

Child Development Associate (CDA), Professional Series

This series is designed to provide the educational component of the national credentialing program administered by the Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition. Students may pursue the Infant/Toddler CDA or the Preschool CDA credential. The CDA is accepted by the Department of Human Services for group teacher positions in licensed day care centers. In addition to course work and portfolio preparation, the candidate needs to meet work experience requirements. Candidates work closely with a CDA advisor (Atlantic Cape instructors may serve as advisors) to document the educational and work experience in preparation of a formal assessment by a Council representative. (Additional non-college fees are assessed by the Council.) It is strongly recommended that the student take the Placement Test and enroll in the required reading/writing courses to assure that the portfolio requirements are met. These courses can be applied toward Atlantic Cape's Child Development/Child Care, Associate in Applied Science degree.

For information, contact department chair, Dr. Beth Sanders-Rabinowitz, at (609)343-4982 or bsanders@atlanticcape.edu.

Upon completion of this program students will be able to:

- Discuss the importance of maintaining a healthy, safe learning environment;
- Summarize the physical and intellectual development of young children;
- Provide positive guidance in the classroom that supports the social and emotional development of young children;
- Explain the importance of positive relationships with families;
- Demonstrate a commitment to professionalism.

(ZCDA)

Choose a track:

Infant/Toddler Child Development Associate

Course #	Title	Credits
CDCC/EDUC103	Roles of the Early Childhood Professional	2
CDCC104	Infant and Toddler Development: Theory and Applications	3
EDUC/CDCC252	Early Childhood Practicum	3
EDUC/PSYC110	Child Development: Theory and Practice	4

Preschool Child Development Associate

Course #	Title	Credits
CDCC/EDUC103	Roles of the Early Childhood Professional	2
EDUC/PSYC110	Child Development: Theory and Practice	4
CDCC/EDUC115	Planning the Preschool Curriculum	3
EDUC/CDCC252	Early Childhood Practicum	3
Total Credits		12

Infant/Toddler Credential, Professional Series

The NJ Infant/Toddler Professional series (credential) is intended for use by professionals and paraprofessionals working in the field of infant/toddler care in all settings, including center-based care, family childcare programs and community-based programs that support infants, toddlers, and their families. The credentialing process will include 15 college credits, and a portfolio that is assessed by the NJ Coalition of Infant/Toddler Educators (CITE).

For more information contact Lisa Stein at (609) 343-4960 or lstein@atlanticcape.edu.

Upon completion of this program students will be able to:

- Recognize the critical importance of child development, including all developmental domains, from conception to age three years;
- Identify appropriate policies and practices which protect the health and safety of infants and toddlers in group child care settings;
- Explain the connection between social/emotional and mental health of infants and toddlers to overall child development and the development of relationships with others;
- Identify quality indicators (environment, curriculum, guidance strategies, etc.) in early childhood settings for infants and toddlers;
- Explain the importance of building strong relationships between teachers and families of infants and toddlers;
- Recognize the importance of the family on the child and their development.

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Course #	Title	Credits
CDCC/EDUC103	Roles of the Early Childhood Professional	2
CDCC104	Infant and Toddler Development: Theory and Applications	3
CDCC105	Early Childhood Health, Safety, Nutrition and Special Needs	4
CDCC106	Early Childhood Social/Emotional Development	3
CDCC250	Infant/Toddler Practicum	3
Total Credits		15

Child Development/Child Care Courses

CDCC/EDUC103 : Roles of the Early Childhood Professional

This course will introduce teacher candidates to the roles and professional skills and practices that they will need to support each and every child and family in quality early childhood programs. The importance of positive and respectful relationships with families, communities and children will be emphasized. Essential concepts of developmentally appropriate approaches to learning for children including those who are diverse in culture, language, ability, race, and life circumstances will be stressed. Students are introduced to practices, strategies, materials, and resources they can use to help enhance multicultural and anti-bias experiences in the early childhood classroom. Discussion and practice in upholding ethical standards for ethics, equity and other professional practices will be included.

Credits 2

Lecture Hours 2

Lab/Clinical/Field Study Hours 0

CDCC/EDUC115 : Planning the Preschool Curriculum

Theoretical study of programming activity and its relationship to the total growth and development of children in a preschool setting. Students design and carry out activities and experiences for children. In addition to the lecture, students must be available for a three-hour-per-week practicum with a children's group.

Credits 3

Lecture Hours 2

Lab/Clinical/Field Study Hours 3

Prerequisite Courses

EDUC/PSYC110: Child Development: Theory and Practice

CDCC/EDUC252 : Early Childhood Practicum

Teaching practicum and integration seminar for Child Development Associate candidates, Child Development/Child Care and Preschool - Grade 3 Education majors. During the 90 hours of placement, students will observe and interact with children and teaching professionals. Focus will be on development and implementation of appropriate curriculum. A series of seminars will integrate the teaching practicum with core concepts of the early childhood profession. (Placements usually occur during the day; child care employees may use their workplace as the placement.)

Credits 3

Lecture Hours 1

Lab/Clinical/Field Study Hours 6

Prerequisites

EDUC/PSYC110 and CDCC/EDUC115, or permission of instructor.

CDCC104 : Infant and Toddler Development: Theory and Applications

This course is designed to give the student a basic understanding of caring for infants and toddlers in a group setting. Students will learn how to care for children as well as themselves and to be aware of the needs of the child, the care setting, the family, the community, and society as a whole. The course will help you to meet your CDA requirements.

Credits 3

Lecture Hours 3

Lab/Clinical/Field Study Hours 0

Prerequisites

EDUC/CDCC103 (may be taken concurrently)

CDCC105 : Early Childhood Health, Safety, Nutrition and Special Needs

Provides information about meeting the health, safety, nutrition and special needs of young children. The course will also discuss the important components of these topics and how they can work together. A review of state regulations, key program policies, daily practices, and discussion of early childhood special needs accommodations. A weekly three-hour (45 hour total) practicum with a children's group (early childhood classroom or family home child care) will allow the student to observe and apply research-based theory.

Credits 4

Lecture Hours 3

Lab/Clinical/Field Study Hours 3

Prerequisites

EDUC/PSYC110

CDCC106 : Early Childhood Social/Emotional Development

Provides information about meeting the social/emotional needs for children ages 0 to 5 and their families. The students will explore social and emotional strategies to use in the early childhood classroom and with parents.

Credits 3

Lecture Hours 3

Lab/Clinical/Field Study Hours 0

Prerequisites

EDUC/PSYC110

CDCC140 : Early Childhood Directors Course

An in-depth study of supervisory skills, management practices, financial accounting, budgeting and developmental appropriate practices. Upon completion of this course, the student will have an action plan to aid in managing a childcare center. Offered to current directors, staff or individuals affiliated in preschool or childcare settings. (Meets the 60-hour Abbott director and non-degreed director's education requirements.)

Credits 4

Lecture Hours 4

Lab/Clinical/Field Study Hours 0

CDCC250 : Infant/Toddler Practicum

The practicum is designed to reinforce prior knowledge rather than new information. Students plan a variety of experiences for infants during the course demonstrating their knowledge and ability to work with the age group. Students must complete 90 hours in a developmentally appropriate infant/toddler setting.

Credits 3

Lecture Hours 1

Lab/Clinical/Field Study Hours 6

Prerequisites

EDUC/PSYC110 and CDCC104

EDUC/CDCC115 : Planning the Preschool Curriculum

Theoretical study of programming activity and its relationship to the total growth and development of children in a preschool setting. Students design and carry out activities and experiences for children. In addition to the lecture, students must be available for a three-hour-per-week practicum with a children's group.

Credits 3

Lecture Hours 2

Lab/Clinical/Field Study Hours 3

Prerequisite Courses

EDUC/PSYC110: Child Development: Theory and Practice