



**Course Syllabus: ECED 3103 Introduction to the Young Child**  
Midwestern State University  
Gordon T. & Ellen West College of Education  
Spring 2026 X20

**Contact Information**

Instructor: Leann Curry, Ph.D.

Office: BH 302

Office hours: Mon 8:00am-11am, Wed. 8:00-10:00am; Thursday 10:00am-11:00am; or by appointment\*

Office phone: (940) 397-4965

E-mail: [Daphney.curry@msutexas.edu](mailto:Daphney.curry@msutexas.edu)

**Instructor Response Policy**

The best way to contact me is via email. I will check my email between 8:00am and 5:00pm, Mon-Fri. I will attempt to contact you within 24 hours (or sooner); however, this does not apply on weekends or holidays. Once you contact me via email, we can set up an in-person, virtual, or phone meeting, depending on your needs. \* I am in my office most days and happy to meet with you outside of my office hours if I am available. It is always a good idea to call or email ahead of time.

**Textbook & Instructional Materials**

Morrison, G.S. *Fundamentals of Early Childhood Education*, 9th Edition. Pearson.  
Bredekamp, S. & Copple, C. *Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs*,

Syllabus, handouts, and announcements will be posted on D2L and Revel. (Go to [MSUTEXAS](#))

Access to a personal computer with Microsoft software or Google Suite, internet, and the ability to access D2L, the MSU Online Learning System.

## Course Description

An introduction to the profession of early childhood education, focusing on developmentally appropriate practices, types of programs, historical perspectives, and current issues.

## Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Course Competencies

The learner will:

1. Explain how theories of learning will influence the teaching and practice of early childhood education. (D, CA, Ex)
2. Compare and contrast the basic features of early childhood education models. (CA)
3. Explain how best practice relates to classroom practice. (CA, D)
4. Analyze various methods of assessing development, learning, and behavior. (CA, D, Ex)
5. Describe the cognitive, language, and social milestones of infant and toddler development. (Ex, CA, D)
6. Explain the characteristics of preschool and primary children's development. (Ex, D, CA)
7. Describe how play promotes children's learning. (D, CA, Ex)
8. Examine appropriate goals, objectives, and curriculum for kindergarten programs.
9. Explain how to meet the needs of all children. (Ex, DCA)
10. Plan strategies to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully help children guide their behavior. (D, CA)
11. Describe effective parent/family collaboration programs. (D)
12. Analyze and understand the importance of fostering collaborations with families and other professionals. (CA, EX, D)

See Appendix A for a complete list of standards/competencies (if applicable) and Appendix B for assignment/standards alignment matrix

## Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

## Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. "By

enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a 'limited right' in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The 'limited right' shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality, authenticity, and educational purposes." from [Student Handbook](#). All assignments submitted in BRIGHTSPACE will also be checked through Turn It In for originality. Assignments with more than 50% match will be given a zero. Plagiarism is the use of someone else's thoughts, words, ideas, or lines of argument in your own work without appropriate documentation (a parenthetical citation at the end and a listing in "Works Cited")-whether you use that material in a quote, paraphrase, or summary. It is a theft of intellectual property and will not be tolerated, whether intentional or not. Use of AI for purposes other than editing (spell and grammar check) is prohibited. All work submitted must be original work/thoughts created by students.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

### Grading/Assessment

*Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment*

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Points</b>
Exams (4 at 8.5 pts each)	34
Learning Assignments	38
Discussions	28
Total Points	100

*Table 2: Total points for final grade.*

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Points</b>
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	Less than 60

### Exams

There will be four scheduled exams for this course (completed via the Test link on D2L). Each exam is worth 8.5 points. The format for each exam will be multiple-choice. Each student will have 90 minutes to take each online exam. Exams will open at 5:00 a.m. and must be completed by 11:59 p.m. You will have 90 minutes to take each exam. Please do not take the exam with your fellow classmates. Exams are an individual effort. See the course outline above for exact exam dates.

### Learning Assignments (Related Chapter Assignments)

Everyone will be required to complete five assignments related to the course. The Assessment tab (Assignments) in D2L contains full descriptions and documents related to the five learning assignments. These assignments will be submitted via the D2L Drop Box link on or before the due date (see course outline in D2L). Please have your assignments completed by the due date. Points will be taken off for late assignments. Each assignment should be thoroughly examined using information from past experiences and the text. They should also be free of grammatical errors, titled, and double-spaced. Please see the course calendar for specific due dates and assignments. These assignments will be the basis for class activities and discussions. Each assignment is worth the following: Learning Assignment #1= 3 points, Learning Assignment #2= 3 points, Learning Assignment #3= 6 points, Learning Assignment #4=8 points, and Learning Assignment #5=18 points. See Learning Assignment Instructions Icon on D2L.

### Discussions

Each student will be required to participate in online discussions related to the text and additional course materials. Using D2L, students will be required to post to each discussion board at least 6 times. See course calendar for actual dates. Online responses should be done throughout the week which allows you to interact with your peers more effectively. Posting all of your discussion responses on the same day is unacceptable. The discussion board should read like an online conversation, so each student should begin their posts immediately to allow other students adequate time to respond to your posts. Specific directions will be given with each discussion assignment. Responses should reflect information related to the text/course materials and provide insight into your thoughts and concerns regarding the topic or issue presented (e.g. personal stories, experiences, opinions, quotes from the book, theorists, and etcetera. One-word responses and incomplete answers are unacceptable. Make sure your posts push the discussion forward. "Good point, Tom!" is an example of a less desirable post. A more desirable response would be: "I agree, Tom. Our text does support..... Piaget's theory of Cognitive development states that...At my daycare I saw an example of...." Students will be required to participate in 8 online discussions. Please see the course calendar for online discussion dates and topics. Each discussion will be worth 3.5 points.

### Late Work and Participation

Please complete all assignments on time. Assignments and Exams will be deducted by 25% for each late day. Complete readings prior to class schedule to ensure participation in course related content and activities.

Participation Policy - (Read Welcome Letter on Course Home Page —D2L)

- Although the course requires a thorough understanding of the readings and assignments, online discussions will provide the basis for learning and assessment.
- Because of the absence of in class collaboration and face-to-face

communications, participation in the discussion boards is crucial to the successful completion of this course.

- Instructor Drop. An instructor may drop a student any time during the semester for excessive absences or failure to participate in online classes, for consistently failing to meet class assignments, for an indifferent attitude, or for disruptive conduct. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to dropping the student from the class. An instructor's drop of a student takes precedence over the student-initiated course drop of a later date. The instructor will assign a grade of either WF or F through the first 8 weeks of a long semester, the first 6 weeks of a 10-week summer term, or the 11th class day of a 4 or 5-week summer term consisting of 20 days. After these periods, the grade will be an F. The date the instructor drop form is received in the Office of the Registrar is the official drop date.
- Please complete all assignments on time. Assignments will be deducted by 25% for each late day. Complete readings prior to class schedule to ensure participation in course-related content and activities.

#### Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: Check [Academic Calendar](#).

Deadline to file for graduation: Check [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" [Academic Calendar](#).

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

#### Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

#### Student Honor Creed

As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so." As students at MSU, we recognize that any great society must be composed of empowered, responsible citizens. We also recognize universities play an important role in helping mold these responsible citizens. We believe students themselves play an important part in developing responsible citizenship by maintaining a community where integrity and honorable character are the norm, not the exception.

Thus, We, the Students of Midwestern State University, resolve to uphold the honor of the University by affirming our commitment to complete academic honesty. We resolve not only to be honest but also to hold our peers accountable for complete honesty in all university matters.

We consider it dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any unauthorized material in examinations, or to present, as one's own, work or ideas which are not entirely one's own. We recognize that any instructor has the right to expect that all student work is honest, original work. We accept and acknowledge that responsibility for lying, cheating, stealing, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty fundamentally rests within each individual student.

We expect of ourselves academic integrity, personal professionalism, and ethical character. We appreciate steps taken by University officials to protect the honor of the University against any who would disgrace the MSU student body by violating the spirit of this creed. Written and adopted by the MSU Student Senate.

#### Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. **\*Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered a reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.**

Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **\*Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world that is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations; however, they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

#### Instructor Class Policies

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment which is conducive to learning. Inappropriate behavior in the D2L online classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to drop the class and a Professional Fitness Form will be filed for review with the college. If the instructor must file a Fitness Alert Form for any reason, including failure to demonstrate appropriate classroom behaviors, the student may receive an instructor drop with an "F" for the course.

An instructor may drop a student any time during the semester for failure to participate, for consistently failing to meet class assignments, for an indifferent attitude, or disruptive conduct. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to dropping the student from the class. An instructor's drop of a student takes precedence over the student-initiated course drop of a later date. The instructor will assign a grade of either WF or F through the first 8 weeks of a long semester, the first 6 weeks of a 10-week summer term, or the 11th class day of a 4 or 5-week summer term consisting of 20 days. After these

periods, the grade will be an F. The date the instructor drop form is received in the Office of the Registrar is the official drop date.

#### Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the [Schedule of Classes](#) each semester.

#### Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. **HOWEVER**, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

#### Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

#### College Policies

##### Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

##### Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU TEXAS. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

##### Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university

property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

### Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

### Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [Safety / Emergency Procedures](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled "Run. Hide. Fight." which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

### Obligation to Report Sex Discrimination under State and Federal Law

Midwestern State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University's Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with resources and options in addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting:

Laura Hetrick

Title IX Coordinator

Sunwatcher Village Clubhouse

940-397-4213

[laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu](mailto:laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu)

You may also file an online report 24/7 at [Online Reporting Form](#)

Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact the MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-4618. For more information on the University's policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct, please visit [Title IX Website](#)

#### Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

#### Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

