



Developmentally Appropriate Practice ECED 4223 X20/DX1

**Midwestern State University
Gordon T. & Ellen West College of Education
Spring 2026 Part of Term B
Online**

Professor Information

Dr. Kelly Medellin, Ph.D.

Office is located in Bridwell Hall 216

Office Telephone: 397- 6265 E-mail: kelly.medellin@msutexas.edu

Cell Number 940-867-2594

Office Hours: Tuesday 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Wednesday 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Thursday 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**** Please feel free to contact me via cell phone BUT you need to leave a voice or text message so that I can get back to you.**

Required Reading

National Association for the Education of Young Children. (2022). Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs. (4th ed.).

Instructor Response Policy

Please feel free to contact me via cell phone BUT you need to leave a voice or text message so that I can get back to you. I will respond within 24 hours M-F

Course/Catalog Description

Developmentally appropriate practices for young children in early education programs 0-48 months.

WCoE Conceptual Framework

The outcomes for graduates of professional programs are based upon knowledge, skills, and dispositions in the following elements:

- Learner Development - understand how learners grow and develop, recognizing that patterns of learning and development vary individually within and across the cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, and physical areas, and design and implements developmentally appropriate and challenging learning experiences.
- Learning Differences - understand individual differences and communities to ensure earning environments that enable each learner to meet high standards.
- Learning Environment - work with others to create environments that support individual and collaborative learning, and that encourage positive social interaction, active engagement in learning, and self motivation.
- Content Knowledge - understand the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the discipline(s) he or she teaches and creates learning experiences that make the discipline accessible and meaningful for learners to assure mastery of the content.
- Application of Content - understand how to connect concepts and use differing perspectives to engage learners in critical thinking, creativity, and collaborative problem solving related to authentic local and global issues.
- Assessment - understand and use multiple methods of assessment to engage learners in their own growth, to monitor learner progress, and to guide the teacher's and learner's decision making.
- Planning for Instruction - plan instruction that supports every student in meeting rigorous learning goals by drawing upon knowledge of content areas, curriculum, cross-disciplinary skills, and pedagogy, as well as knowledge of learners and the community context.
- Instructional Strategies - understand and use a variety of instructional strategies to encourage learners to develop deep understanding of content areas and their connections, and to build skills to apply knowledge in meaningful ways.
- Professional Learning and Ethical Practice - engage in ongoing professional learning and use evidence to continually evaluate his or her practice, particularly the effects of his or her choices and actions on others (learners, families, other professionals, and the community), and adapts practice to meet the needs of each learner.

- Leadership and Collaboration - seek appropriate leadership roles and opportunities to take responsibility for student learning, to collaborate with learners, families, colleagues, other school professionals, and community members to ensure learner growth, and to advance the profession.

Objectives

1. Demonstrate comprehension that developmentally appropriate practice includes what is age appropriate and individually appropriate for each child. (NAEYC 2,4, 6)
2. Identifies and describes ways to create and implement programs that provide learning experiences based on each child's needs, strengths and interests. (NAEYC 1,5; Texas Infant, Toddler, and Three-Year-Old Early Learning Guidelines Caring for Young Children with Disabilities or Special Needs)
3. Demonstrates knowledge of physical health and motor development of young children 0 to 48 months including general health and well-being, gross motor skills, and fine motor skills. (NAEYC 1,5, Texas Infant, Toddler, and Three-Year-Old Early Learning Guidelines: Physical Health and Motor Development)
4. Demonstrates knowledge of social and emotional development of young children 0 to 48 months including trust and emotional security, self-awareness, self-regulation, and relationships with others. (NAEYC 1,5, Texas Infant, Toddler, and Three-Year-Old Early Learning Guidelines: Social and Emotional Development)
5. Demonstrates knowledge of language and communication development of young children 0 to 48 months including listening and understanding, communication and speaking, and emergent literacy. (NAEYC 1,5, Texas Infant, Toddler, and Three-Year-Old Early Learning Guidelines: Language and Communication Development)
6. Demonstrates knowledge of cognitive development of young children 0 to 48 months including exploration and discovery, problem solving, memory, and imitation and make believe. (NAEYC 1,5, Texas Infant, Toddler, and Three-Year-Old Early Learning Guidelines: Cognitive Development)

7. Identifies key elements of a developmentally appropriate physical learning environment and creates developmentally appropriate schedules, routines, and transitions for early childhood programs (NAEYC 1,5)
8. Identifies and explains several authentic methods of assessment appropriate for young children, and analyzes the relationship between assessment, instruction, and developmentally appropriate practice. (NAEYC 3)

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Standards

Standard 1 - Child Development and Learning in Context

Early childhood educators (a) are grounded in an understanding of the developmental period of early childhood from birth through age 8 across developmental domains. They (b) understand each child as an individual with unique developmental variations. Early childhood educators (c) understand that children learn and develop within relationships and within multiple contexts. They (d) use this multidimensional knowledge to make evidence-based decisions about how to carry out their responsibilities.

Standard 2 - Family-Teacher Partnerships and Community Connections

Early childhood educators understand that successful early childhood education depends upon educators' partnerships with the families of the young children they serve. They (a) know about, understand, and value family characteristics. Early childhood educators (b) use this understanding to create respectful, responsive, reciprocal relationships with families and to engage with them as partners in their young children's development and learning. They (c) use community resources to support young children's learning and development and to support children's families, and they build connections between early learning settings, schools, and community organizations and agencies.

Standard 3 - Child Observation, Documentation, and Assessment

Early childhood educators (a) understand that the primary purpose of assessments is to inform instruction and planning in early learning settings. They (b) know how to use observation, documentation, and other appropriate assessment approaches and tools. Early childhood educators (c) use screening and assessment tools in ways that are ethically grounded and developmentally appropriate to document

developmental progress and promote positive outcomes for each child. In partnership with families and professional colleagues, early childhood educators (d) use assessments to document individual children's progress and, based on the findings, to plan learning experiences

Standard 5 – Knowledge, Application, and Integration of Academic Content in the Early Childhood Curriculum

Early childhood educators have knowledge of the content of the academic disciplines (e.g., language and literacy, the arts, mathematics, social studies, science, technology and engineering, physical education) and of the pedagogical methods for teaching each discipline. They (a) understand the central concepts, the methods and tools of inquiry, and the structures in each academic discipline. Educators (b) understand pedagogy, including how young children learn and process information in each discipline, the learning trajectories for each discipline, and how teachers use this knowledge to inform their practice. They (c) apply this knowledge using early learning standards and other resources to make decisions about spontaneous and planned learning experiences and about curriculum development, implementation, and evaluation to ensure that learning will be stimulating, challenging, and meaningful to each child.

Standard 6 – Professionalism as an Early Childhood Educator

Early childhood educators (a) identify and participate as members of the early childhood profession. They serve as informed advocates for young children, for the families of the children in their care, and for the early childhood profession. They (b) know and use ethical guidelines and other early childhood professional guidelines. They (c) have professional communication skills that effectively support their relationships and work young children, families, and colleagues. Early childhood educators (d) are continuous, collaborative learners who (e) develop and sustain the habit of reflective and intentional practice in their daily work with young children and as members of the early childhood profession.

Texas Infant, Toddler, and Three-Year-Old Early Learning Guidelines

Caring for Young Children with Disabilities or Special Needs:

1. It is important that providers are sensitive and responsive to the needs of all young children. Providers that care for infants, toddlers, and three-year-olds with disabilities or special needs should try to learn more about the

particular need or disability, but should be careful not to make assumptions about an individual child based on his or her need or diagnosis.

2. In terms of access, programs and policymakers should ensure that all children are able to participate in a wide range of opportunities, activities, settings, and environments.
3. As providers, the most critical first step one can take in respecting children with disabilities is a willingness to do so. It is important to discuss the needs of every child with their parents; providers should work with parents to support and to meet each child's unique needs. They can do so by taking the time to learn about children's unique needs and seek ways to support those needs.
4. Early care and education providers can be a valuable support to families in identifying various developmental delays or warning signs. A provider's knowledge and awareness related to early childhood development and to each of the children in her care are both valuable assets in the early diagnosis and prevention of developmental delays or disabilities. As a provider, it is important to bring any signs of delay or health concerns to the child's parents immediately, in consultation with a director or supervisor.

Physical Health and Motor Development

1. Young children's physical and motor development affects their cognitive and social development, readiness for school, and adult health. Therefore, good physical health and motor development is necessary for overall development. Physical development pertains to children's physical growth, while motor development refers to movements of large muscles (gross motor) and small muscles (fine motor).
2. The Physical Health and Motor Development domain is broken into three important component areas. The first component, health and well-being, refers to children's formation of healthy routines, such as eating nutritiously, physical activity, and developing self-care habits. This component includes information on young children's healthy routines and self-care activities, as well as important knowledge about young children's development with regard to safety.

3. The second component, gross motor skills, refers to large muscle development through control of movements. This component discusses the skills young children demonstrate that tell us they are developing in this area and what caregivers can do to support that development.
4. The third component, fine motor skills, refers to small muscle development through control over movements, such as reaching, grasping, coloring, and turning pages in a book. Infants need sufficient and appropriate materials to practice grasping and reaching, which are important steps towards increasing precision in fine movement.
5. Providing a safe, appropriate environment, unstructured time to experiment with materials and body movements, and planning daily activities that encourage young children to move their growing bodies and make healthy food choices all support young children's physical development and well-being.

Social and Emotional Development

1. Social and emotional development is a broad domain which encompasses many skills that form the foundation all children need in order to become healthy, happy, and successful adults. The Infant, Toddler, and Three-Year-Old Early Learning Guidelines include four components in this domain: Trust and Emotional Security (Attachment), Self-Awareness, Self-Regulation, and Relationships with Others.
2. Early childhood is a critical developmental period when the brain is especially sensitive to caregiving experiences. Young children who receive warm, consistent, responsive care develop a sense of emotional security and confidence that allows them to be open to exploring their world, trying new activities, and forming friendships.
3. One of the most important developmental tasks of infancy is to establish basic trust and emotional security within consistent, loving relationships with one or a small number of caregivers. Through such early relationships, infants learn that their world is safe and interesting, that someone will be attentive to their physical needs (for example, feed them when they are hungry or change their diapers when they are soiled), comfort them when

they are scared or fussy, and respond to them with warmth and playfulness when they want to play and interact.

4. Self-awareness is another important component of social and emotional development. Individuals who have a clear and positive sense of identity and who can recognize and talk about their feelings are better able to form healthy relationships with others and to resist negative peer pressure.
5. Self-regulation is the ability to modulate one's own behaviors and expression of emotions as appropriate for different situations. Children use self-regulation skills when they calm themselves by sucking their thumbs, when they tolerate waiting a few minutes for their turn to use a toy, when they allow a teacher to comfort them after saying good-bye to Mommy or Daddy in the morning, when they sit and focus on a book being read to them, and when they refrain from hitting another child who has moved into their space.
6. One of the most important developmental tasks of infancy is to establish basic trust and emotional security within consistent, loving relationships with one or a small number of caregivers.
7. When addressing the four components of social and emotional development, it is important to be aware that children are socialized within their families, which may have different norms and expectations for expressing emotions and controlling behavior.

Language and Communication Development

1. The Language and Communication domain includes three components describing how young children learn to: understand language, communicate with others, and demonstrate emergent literacy skills. The development of language and communication skills begins long before children say their first word. Even very young infants are learning a great deal about their home language or other languages in their environment and caregivers can do many things to help support language development. Speaking to children about their daily routines, objects in their environments, their feelings, and sharing books with children are all important ways to support language development.
2. The first Language and Communication component is listening and understanding. This component includes indicators related to what words

mean, how to make different forms out of a root word (for example, happy, happily, unhappy), and how to put words together in sentences. It also includes indicators related to listening and responding to the communication of others.

3. The next component is communication and speaking. This is, in some ways, the other side of listening and understanding. This component includes indicators related to how young children use sounds, gestures, and words to get their needs met. It focuses on how young Language and Communication Development 50 children learn language and begin to use it.
4. Emergent literacy is the last component of the Language and Communication domain. Emergent literacy relates to the knowledge and skills associated with books and writing.

Cognitive Development

1. The Cognitive Development domain includes four components that describe how young children develop and demonstrate abilities in: exploring the world around them, solving problems, remembering and retaining information, and pretending and using their imagination. Cognitive development is often thought of as growth in children's thinking, reasoning, and understanding. Positive early experiences that support cognitive development contribute to lifelong traits, such as curiosity, persistence, and independence.
2. The first Cognitive Development component is exploration and discovery, which includes indicators of development for how young children explore their environment and demonstrate the building blocks of inquiry and curiosity through playing with cause and effect relationships and understanding patterns.
3. The next component in the Cognitive Development domain is problem solving. This component includes indicators related to young children's use of imagination and creativity in approaching problems and tasks.
4. Memory is the third component of the Cognitive Development domain, and it includes indicators related to how infants and toddlers store and use information. In this component, young children anticipate routines, remember familiar people, and use their memory to inform their daily lives.

- Finally, imitation and make believe is the last component of the Cognitive Development domain. It includes indicators related to young children's use of their imagination and play to imitate actions and experiment with different roles and ideas.

Assessment

Students will demonstrate mastery of these standards by their participation in class, completion of class assignments, projects and assessments relating to DAP.

Grading Procedures

Grades

A 90 - 100%	Work is outstanding and exemplary
B 80 - 89%	Work that is above the minimum requirements
C 70 - 79%	Work meets expected level of performance for most students
D 60 - 69%	Work that falls short of minimum criteria
F 59% or below	Work that falls well below the expected level of performance for most students

Assignments

1. Chapter Quizzes 10%

You are expected to read chapter assignments and study for and complete each chapter quiz.

2. DAP Lesson Plan with AI 20%

Students will create an AI Lesson Plan for 3 or 4 year old prekindergarten students using one chosen prekindergarten guideline from the state of Texas. Then students will analyze the lesson plan based on the 3 core considerations for DAP: Commonality, Individuality, and Context in 6 to 8 sentences addressing each one. Lastly, using the NAEYC DAP: Planning and Implementing an Engaging Curriculum to Achieve Meaningful Goals resource students will choose two key sub factors that the lesson plan aligned with and two key sub factors that the lesson plan failed to consider, and explain the reasoning behind their choices in 5-6 sentences for each.

3. Reframing Observations and Assessments Assignment 20%

Students to watch "The World of Children: Developing Child Observation Skills" to learn about the difference between subjective and objective observations. Then students will observe a classroom video and use it to generate subjective statements about the environment, interactions, or children. You will re-watch the same clip and rewrite the statements to be more objective.

4. Providing Developmentally Appropriate Learning Module 20%

Students will complete the Providing Developmentally Appropriate Learning Module from Resources for Early Learning. After completion of the module, students will demonstrate knowledge of best practices for providing developmentally appropriate learning in early care settings.

5. Developmentally Appropriate Practice Presentation 20%

Students will create a presentation on developmentally appropriate practice in early care. On the first slide, students will make a DAP mind map to explore central ideas of the topic, on the next slide, they will choose examples of DAP for all ages from Chapter 9 and will generate a chart identifying specific activities that could be implemented to address each example of DAP, and finally on the last slides students will be asked to deconstruct finger plays to discover the concepts and domains in which development is being supported.

6. Observing Family Partnership and Communication 10%

Students will observe a set of video vignettes of early care professionals and their interactions with families of young children. Then students will react to the videos and discuss the differing styles, ways of asking questions, and ways of engagement that are demonstrated.

Attendance Policy

You are expected to complete all coursework and fully participate in the online course.

Other Class Policies

- Disability Support - As the faculty of the West College of Education, we are dedicated to helping meet the needs of our students with disabilities and are eager to provide the accommodations to which such students are

entitled. If you have a documented disability but are not registered with the Office of Disability, please contact that office immediately to register.

- Academic Honesty Policy - Honesty is a fundamental assumption in all academic activities. Students who belong to a university community have the obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty and to expect the same standards of others. —Academic honesty involves the submission of work that is wholly the student's own work, except in the case of assigned group work. Additionally, academic honesty involves the proper citation of other authors' works.
- Professionalism Policy - Conduct as a professional educator is expected at all times. —Attendance, punctuality the quality of your interactions with colleagues and supervisors, and the quality and timeliness regarding completing assignments all determine your professionalism, which in turn, signals your readiness to advance in the teacher education program.
- Late Assignment Policy - Assignments need to be turned in on the due date and time. If for some reason you are unable to bring in an assignment, you must e-mail it, or send it in with a friend when it is due. Points will be deducted each day it is late. Extenuating circumstances must be discussed with the instructor at least 2 days.
- Americans with Disabilities Act-The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Students with a disability must be registered with Disability Support Services before classroom accommodations can be provided. If you have a documented disability that will impact your work in this class, please contact me to discuss your needs.
- Plagiarism Statement—"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
- 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."](#)
- 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.
- 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 Clark Student Center, Room 168, (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.

- **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

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

- **Inclement Weather-** In the case of campus closure due to inclement weather, key decision-makers will monitor weather projections and communicate with local news agencies and WFISD leadership to make a delay or cancellation decision. Notification occurs through official campus channels and in communication with the local news networks. MSU channels include MSU Alert, MSU Safety app, Postmaster, and website headers. MSU Police and the Office of Marketing and Public Information. Information for all channels can be found at MSU Ready. This online course will continue as

scheduled, but if assessment deadlines coincide with the closure dates, deadline will be delayed until after the campus reopens. The timeline is as follows:

Event	Time	Day	Decision
Inclement weather occurs during regular work/class day	3:30 PM	Day of inclement weather	Cancel classes/events after 5 PM
Overnight inclement weather expected	8 PM	Day before inclement weather	Close campus or delay opening
Delay called the day before but change to closure due to the extent of weather impact	6:15 AM	Day of delay	Close campus
No cancellation or delay decision made the night before	5:30 AM	Day after no decision made the night before	Close campus or delay opening

Please note: 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 and authenticity, and for educational purposes.