

EDEC 4020
Decision Making for Planning, Teaching,
and Organizing Early Childhood Classrooms
Partnership Program

The conceptual framework for educator preparation programs in the College of Education states that the college "prepares exemplary, reflective professionals to serve a diverse global community" (see <http://ncate.coe.uga.edu/framework/>). The early childhood program shares that aspiration and seeks to prepare exemplary and reflective teachers of young children by committing itself to the standards for early childhood education of the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (see 505-3-.17 at <http://www.gapsc.com/TeacherEducation/Rules/Rules.asp>). The early childhood standards addressed in EDEC 4020 include the following:

STANDARD I: Child Development and Learning

The program shall prepare early childhood professionals who:

- (i) Use knowledge of how children develop and learn to provide opportunities that support the physical, social, emotional, language, cognitive, and aesthetic development of all children.
- (ii) Use knowledge of how children differ in their development and approaches to learning to support the development and learning of individual children.
- (iii) Demonstrate understanding of the conditions that affect children's development and learning, including risk factors, developmental variations, and developmental patterns of specific disabilities and special abilities.
- (iv) Create and modify environments and experiences to meet the individual needs of all children, including children with disabilities, developmental delays, and special abilities.
- (v) Apply knowledge of cultural and linguistic diversity and the significance of socio-cultural and political contexts for development and learning, and recognize that children are best understood in the contexts of family, culture, and society.
- (vi) Demonstrate understanding of the interrelationships among culture, language, and thought and the function of the home language in the development of children.
- (vii) Affirm and respect culturally and linguistically diverse children, support home language preservation, and promote anti-bias approaches through the creation of learning environments and experiences.

STANDARD II: Curriculum Development and Implementation

The program shall prepare early childhood professionals who:

- (i) Plan and implement developmentally appropriate curriculum and instructional practices based on knowledge of individual children, the community, and curriculum goals and content.
- (ii) Use and explain the rationale for developmentally appropriate methods that include play, small group projects, open-ended questioning, group discussion, problem solving, cooperative learning, and inquiry experiences to help children develop intellectual curiosity, solve problems, and make decisions.
- (iii) Use a variety of strategies to encourage children's physical, social, emotional, aesthetic, and cognitive development.
- (iv) Demonstrate a high level of competence in use of the English language areas and know, understand, and use concepts from reading, language, and child development, to teach reading, writing, speaking, viewing, listening, and thinking skills and to help students successfully apply their developing skills to many different situations, materials, and ideas.
- (viii) Know, understand, and use—as appropriate to their own knowledge and skills—the content, functions, and achievements, of dance, music, theater, and the several visual arts as primary media for communication, inquiry, and insight among P-5 students.
- (xi) Develop and implement an integrated curriculum that focuses on children's needs and interests and takes into account culturally valued content and children's home experiences.
- (xii) Create, evaluate, and select developmentally appropriate materials, equipment, and environments.
- (xiv) Develop and evaluate topics of study in terms of conceptual soundness, significance, and intellectual integrity.

- (xv) Adapt strategies and environments to meet the specific needs of all children, including those with disabilities, developmental delays, or special abilities.
- (xvi) Use individual and group guidance and problem-solving techniques to develop positive and supportive relationships with children, to encourage positive social interaction among children, to promote positive strategies of conflict resolution, and to develop personal self-control, self-motivation, and self-esteem.
- (xviii) Establish and maintain physically and psychologically safe and healthy learning environments for children.
- (xix) Demonstrate understanding of the influence of the physical setting, schedule, routines, and transitions on children and use these experiences to promote children's development and learning.

STANDARD III: Family and Community Relationships

The program shall prepare early childhood professionals who:

- (i) Establish and maintain positive, collaborative relationships with families.
- (ii) Respect parents' choices and goals for children and communicate effectively with parents about curriculum and children's progress.
- (iii) Involve families in assessing and planning for individual children, including children with disabilities, developmental delays, or special abilities.
- (iv) Support parents in making decisions related to their child's development and parenting.
- (v) Demonstrate sensitivity to differences in family structures and social and cultural backgrounds.
- (vi) Apply family systems theory, knowledge of the dynamics, roles, and relationships within families and communities.

STANDARD IV: Assessment and Evaluation

The program shall prepare early childhood professionals who:

- (i) Use informal and formal assessment strategies to plan and individualize curriculum and teaching practices.
- (ii) Observe, record, and assess children's development and learning and engage children in self-assessment for the purpose of planning appropriate programs, environments, and interactions, and adapting for individual differences.
- (iii) Develop and use authentic, performance-based assessments of children's learning to assist in planning and to communicate with children and parents.
- (iv) Participate and assist other professionals in conducting family-centered assessments.
- (v) Select, evaluate, and interpret formal, standardized assessment instruments and information used in the assessment of children, and integrate authentic classroom assessment data with formal assessment information.

STANDARD V: Professionalism

The program shall prepare early childhood professionals who:

- (i) Reflect on their practices, articulate a philosophy and rationale for decisions, continually self-assess and evaluate the effects of their choices and actions on others (children, parents, and other professionals) as a basis for program planning and modification, and continuing professional development.
- (ii) Demonstrate an understanding of conditions of children, families, and professionals; current issues and trends; legal issues; and legislation and other public policies affecting children, families, and programs for children and the early childhood profession.
- (iv) Demonstrate awareness of and commitment to the profession's code of ethical conduct.
- (v) Actively seek out opportunities to grow professionally by locating and using appropriate professional literature, organizations, resources, and experiences to inform and improve practice.
- (vi) Establish and maintain positive, collaborative relationships with colleagues, other professionals and families, and work effectively as a member of a professional team.
- (vii) Serve as advocates on behalf of children and their families, improved quality of programs and services for young children, and enhanced professional status and working conditions for early childhood educators.

STANDARD VII: Teaching of Reading

The program shall prepare the Early Childhood classroom teacher to meet the standards for an endorsement for Classroom Teacher of Reading as specified in Rule 505-3-.52. The program shall (i) conform to the IRA Standards for Reading Professionals, Classroom Teacher Candidate, 2003.

http://www.reading.org/resources/issues/reports/professional_standards.html and (ii) prepare candidates to provide instructional practices grounded in scientifically based reading research (SBRR).

<http://www.nationalreadingpanel.org/>

STANDARD VIII: Georgia Special Requirements

The program shall meet all requirements specified in Rule 505-2-.020, Special Georgia Requirements. These requirements are in the areas of:

- (i) Content knowledge assessments (Praxis II)
- (ii) Standards of conduct
- (iii) Recency of study
- (iv) Special education
- (v) Teaching of reading and writing