

California Community Colleges ECE Curriculum Alignment Project (CAP)

Official Course Alignment Document: Introduction to Curriculum (Revised Sept 2015)

Course Description:
Developmentally appropriate curriculum and environments for young children. Explores teaching strategies and curriculum development based on theoretical frameworks, observation, and assessment. Emphasizes the teacher's role in supporting development and learning across the curriculum, including all content areas.
Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):
1. Differentiate between various curriculum models, approaches, environments, and standards for early learning including indicators of quality.
2. Identify the teachers' role in early childhood programs, including planning, implementing, and evaluating activities and environments.
3. Select and apply developmentally appropriate teaching strategies and theories to curriculum and environment design.
CAP Objectives:
1. Compare various models and approaches to early childhood curriculum.
2. Examine ways curriculum is integrated across all developmental domains and content areas.
3. Identify ways in which the environment functions as an essential component of curriculum.
4. Observe and evaluate teaching strategies and environmental design.
5. Document observations of children's developmental stages in various early childhood settings for planning curriculum and environments.
6. Design appropriate experiences in multiple content areas to support children's learning.
7. Develop plans for environments that are appropriate for children's individual ages, stages, and needs.
8. Plan and record the curriculum development process using various forms of documentation.
CAP Course Content and Topics:
1. Program models and approaches
2. State and national standards and accreditation
3. Theoretical frameworks for planning curriculum and environments
4. Environments <ol style="list-style-type: none">Learning centersEffect of environment on behaviorRoutines and schedulesIndicators of qualityIntegration of content
5. Ongoing curriculum cycle <ol style="list-style-type: none">ObservationAssessmentPlanningDocumentation
6. The role of the early childhood teacher <ol style="list-style-type: none">Best practices in teachingCurrent researchPlanning and evaluating curriculum and environmentsInteractionsFamily involvement

CAP Introduction to Curriculum (cont'd)

7. Development

- a. Physical
- b. Cognitive
- c. Language
- d. Social
- e. Emotional
- f. Self-regulation
- g. Self-help skills

8. Content areas

- a. Math
- b. Science
- c. English language development
- d. Language and literacy
- e. History and social science
- f. Social emotional development
- g. Visual and performing arts
- h. Physical development
- i. Health

9. Planning for the diverse needs of learners

- a. Age
- b. Temperament
- c. Interests
- d. Abilities
- e. Gender
- f. Culture
- g. Language