

Social Sciences
Parenting and Human Development
HPD4E

Course Description

This course prepares students for occupations involving older children, and for the responsibility of parenting, with emphasis on school-age children and adolescent children. Students will learn, through practical experience in the community, how early child development affects later development, success in school, and personal and social well being throughout life, and how children and parents change over time. This course also develops students' skills in researching and investigating various aspects of parenting and human development.

Prerequisite: None

Essential Outcomes:

Strand #1 – Stages of Family Life

- Demonstrate an understanding of the stages and transitions in the family life cycle through a comparison of models of the developmental stages in a family life cycle.
- Describe the role of the community in meeting individual and family needs during childhood and adolescence, on the basis of practical experience in a community setting.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the training and knowledge required to work in occupations involving older children and adolescents.

Strand # 2 – Human Development: Self and Others

- Demonstrate an understanding of the link between healthy prenatal and infant development and long-term growth and development by identifying and describing strategies for promoting healthy pregnancies (e.g. prenatal health care and nutrition; abstinence from smoking, alcohol, and drugs, breastfeeding).
- Explain attachment theory and describe various strategies that promote attachment in infants and children.
- Using basic principles of brain science, explain the role that stimulation plays in the intellectual development of the infant and how emotional intelligence develops throughout childhood and adolescence.

- Describe key theories of moral development and use them to compare how children of different ages demonstrate moral thinking (e.g. by taking a stand, showing empathy, recognizing injustice, demonstrating tolerance).

Strand # 3 – Personal and Social Responsibilities

- Demonstrate an understanding of how the parental responsibility for the nutritional well-being of children and adolescents is best fulfilled by identifying and comparing the nutritional requirements of growing children and adolescents.
- Describe techniques for enabling and empowering children and adolescents through the development of self-discipline.

Strand # 4 – Social Structures and Social Challenges

- Analyse the challenges of balancing work and family by identifying issues facing fathers and mothers who work while raising children. (e.g. meal planning, time management, child-care schedules, care for a sick child on a workday)
- Compare the role of parents, teachers, youth workers, and children in formal and informal education (e.g. mentoring, monitoring, modelling), on the basis of observations made in school and community settings.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the effects that media violence has on children and adolescents (e.g. increasing school and peer violence)
- Explain the role of social-service organizations in supporting children and families when problems arise.

Strand # 5 – Research and Inquiry Skills

- Demonstrate an ability to follow the steps involved in a research investigation by using appropriate social science research methods in the investigation of issues in human development and parenting of children of all ages.
- Differentiate between research evidence and opinion.
- Document sources of information accurately.
- Compile and effectively communicate information gathered through research in a variety of ways, including written reports; seminar, poster, or multimedia presentations; and cooperative group presentations.