

This course is a Colorado Community College Course. For detailed information, course assignments and support, please contact your Colorado Community College partner in your area. Please note that additional ECE courses can be added to a Secondary CTE ECE Secondary Program by contacting the Colorado Family and Consumer Sciences Program Director and the ECE Faculty at the partnering college. Instructors for these courses must be adjunct faculty approved by the partnering college.

ECE 1111: Infant and Toddler Theory and Practice

Short Scope and Sequence

Course Description

ECE 1111 presents an overview of development and care for infants and toddlers from birth through age three in early childhood settings. The course explores developmental milestones, child development theories, responsive caregiving, health and safety regulations, quality indicators, learning environments, inclusion, family partnerships, and professionalism. Emphasis is placed on creating nurturing, culturally responsive, and developmentally appropriate experiences that support young children's growth and well-being.

Course Scope

Students will:

- **Examine infant and toddler development across all developmental domains.**
 - **Explore child development theories that inform responsive caregiving practices.**
 - **Analyze the impact of risk, resilience, and trauma-informed care on young children.**
 - **Evaluate environmental factors that support quality infant and toddler care.**
 - **Understand Colorado licensing regulations, health and safety requirements, and quality standards.**
 - **Design developmentally and culturally appropriate learning experiences integrated into daily routines.**
 - **Explore inclusion practices and early intervention resources.**
 - **Develop effective collaboration and communication skills with families and professionals.**
 - **Reflect on professionalism, ethical responsibilities, and continuous professional growth.**
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Sequence of Learning

Unit 1: Infants, Toddlers, and Their Families

Topics

- Foundations of infant and toddler care
- Family relationships and attachment
- Parenting styles and family diversity

Learning Outcomes

- Analyze the importance of collaboration with families and professionals.
 - Describe the role of families in supporting development and learning.
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Unit 2: Infant and Toddler Development and Theory

Topics

- Prenatal development
- Brain development and early learning
- Cognitive, language, social-emotional, motor, and physical development
- Attachment and bonding
- Major developmental theories

Learning Outcomes

- Identify foundational developmental milestones.
 - Describe child development theories that guide professional practice.
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Unit 3: Risk, Resilience, and Responsive Caregiving

Topics

- Risk and protective factors
- Resilience in young children
- Trauma-informed and responsive caregiving
- Building secure relationships

Learning Outcomes

- Discuss the importance of responsive caregiving.
 - Explain the impact of risk factors on infant and toddler development.
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Unit 4: Quality Environments for Infants and Toddlers

Topics

- Indoor and outdoor learning environments
- Physical arrangement and materials

- Emotional climate
- Continuity of care and primary caregiving
- Positive guidance and culturally responsive care

Learning Outcomes

- Explain how environmental factors promote quality care.
 - Design environments that support healthy development and learning.
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Unit 5: Licensing, Health, Safety, and Nutrition

Topics

- Colorado licensing regulations
- Health and safety practices
- Nutrition requirements
- Quality indicators and accreditation systems
- ERS and CLASS frameworks

Learning Outcomes

- Explain the significance of health, safety, and nutrition regulations.
 - Identify indicators of quality infant and toddler programs.
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Unit 6: Learning Experiences and Responsive Routines

Topics

- Developmentally appropriate practice
- Culturally responsive teaching
- Colorado Early Learning and Development Guidelines (CEL DG)
- Responsive routines and daily experiences
- Planning and assessment cycle

Learning Outcomes

- Examine developmentally and culturally appropriate learning experiences.
 - Integrate learning opportunities into responsive routines.
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Unit 7: Inclusion and Early Intervention

Topics

- Early Intervention (EI) referral process

- **Community resources and support services**
- **Adaptations and accommodations**
- **Supporting children with exceptionalities**

Learning Outcomes

- **Discuss the early intervention referral process and resources.**
 - **Explore strategies to support infants and toddlers with exceptionalities.**
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Unit 8: Collaboration and Professionalism

Topics

- **Building relationships with families, colleagues, and community partners**
- **Communication strategies**
- **Teacher dispositions and ethics**
- **Bias, self-reflection, coaching, and professional development**

Learning Outcomes

- **Analyze the importance of collaboration with families and professionals.**
 - **Analyze aspects of professionalism for the infant and toddler teacher.**
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Culminating Experience

Students develop a comprehensive infant and toddler care plan that demonstrates:

- **Knowledge of infant and toddler development**
- **Responsive caregiving practices**
- **Health, safety, and nutrition requirements**
- **Quality learning environments**
- **Developmentally appropriate learning experiences**
- **Inclusion and early intervention supports**
- **Family and community collaboration**
- **Professional and ethical decision-making**

This culminating project demonstrates readiness to provide high-quality, responsive care and education for infants and toddlers in early childhood settings.

National Family and Consumer Sciences Standards are located at [LEADFCS NATIONAL STANDARDS](#)

Academic Standards Alignment

Colorado CTE courses are required to integrate academic and essential skills into course content. The following academic standards have been identified as aligned to this course and should be integrated throughout instruction.

[CO CTE Academic Standards Resources](#) (Rubrics, integration strategies, etc)
[CDE Colorado Academic Standards Online](#) (Online standards lookup tool)

Reading, Writing, & Communicating

Standard 1: Oral Expression and Listening

- **Prepared Graduate 1:** Collaborate effectively as group members or leaders who listen actively and respectfully; pose thoughtful questions, acknowledge the ideas of others; and contribute ideas to further the group's attainment of an objective.
- **Prepared Graduate 2:** Deliver effective oral presentations for varied audiences and varied purposes.

Standard 2: Reading for All Purposes

- **Prepared Graduate 3:** Read a wide range of literary texts to build knowledge and to better understand the human experience.
- **Prepared Graduate 4:** Read a wide range of informational texts to build knowledge and to better understand the human experience.
- **Prepared Graduate 5:** Understand how language functions in different contexts, command a variety of word-learning strategies to assist comprehension, and make effective choices for meaning or style when writing and speaking.

Standard 3: Writing and Composition

- **Prepared Graduate 6:** Craft arguments using techniques specific to the genre.
- **Prepared Graduate 7:** Craft informational/explanatory texts using techniques specific to the genre.
- **Prepared Graduate 8:** Craft narratives using techniques specific to the genre.
- **Prepared Graduate 9:** Demonstrate mastery of their own writing process with clear, coherent, and error-free polished products.

Standard 4: Research Inquiry and Design

- **Prepared Graduate 10:** Gather information from a variety of sources; analyze and evaluate its quality and relevance; and use it ethically to answer complex questions.

Note: Mathematics and Science standards will be added in the future. Visit the [Colorado Academic Standards](#) page for the most current version.