

T&L 2900— Early Childhood, Infant and Toddler Mental Health: Issues & Information for Educators

Course at a Glance

Instructor: Aumony Dahl

Length: Approximately 30 hours, complete in 4 months

Dates: Rolling admission

Number of Graduate Professional Development Credits: 2, from the University North Dakota

Introduction

Infant & Toddler Mental Health: Issues & Information for Educators is an interactive computer-based instruction course designed to help you achieve a better understanding of infant and toddler mental health, child development, and strategies you can use to promote positive relationships with children and their families. This course provides information that will help you to understand and identify your role as a child care provider, educator, and early childhood professional. *Infant & Toddler Mental Health* will provide you with research-based information on child development, attachment, temperament, and curriculum. This course also lists resources for both teachers and parents who would like more help or information about infant and toddler mental health.

This course is designed to be an informational course with application to early childhood education or childcare settings. The curriculum and strategies presented are designed for children from birth to thirty-six months of age. Some alterations may be needed when working with children with sensory processing disorders or other developmental disabilities.

This online, self-paced program can be started and completed at the student's own leisure **within four months from the UND assigned course start date after enrollments.**

CDA Related Information: This course is one part of a five part series on early childhood education. Upon completion of all five courses, you will have covered all of the CDA Competencies to prepare you to take the CDA exam (**applicable in certain states, not in North Dakota**).

Other courses in this five part series includes:

- Early Childhood: Family Centered Services, 2 credits
- Early Childhood: Observation & Assessment, 3 credits
- Early Childhood: Typical & Atypical Development, 3 credits
- Early Childhood: Program Planning, 3 credits

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this course students will be able to:

- To define Infant and Toddler Mental Health;

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- To provide an overview of child development from birth to thirty-six months;
- To increase the ability to observe typically developing infants and toddlers, as well as to identify infants and toddlers with mental health issues;
- To provide information and best practice methods used in the care of infants and toddlers and their families;
- To increase knowledge in the research areas of attachment and temperament; and
- To provide resources for early childhood educators and care-providers to help them strengthen the children and families with whom they work.

Session Topics

The **Infant & Toddler Mental Health** course has been divided into four chapters that are designed to support and train early childhood professionals, care providers, and their families by: Providing an overview of early child development; examining what curriculum looks like for infants and toddlers; exploring the importance of early attachment; exploring different temperament traits; and providing suggestions for strengthening families.

Chapter 1: Introduction to Infant & Toddler Mental Health.

Chapter 2: Child Development from infancy to thirty-six months

Chapter 3: Curriculum & the Classroom

Chapter 4: Attachment, Temperament, & Families

Course Materials

This computer-based instruction course is a self-supporting program that provides instruction, structured practice, and evaluation all on your home or school computer. Technical support information can be found in the Help section of your course. There are NO required textbooks.

Assignments & Examinations

Assignments-

This course has two required writing components. **ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE REVIEWED.**

1) *Essay Requirement: Critical Thinking Questions*

There are four Critical Thinking Questions that you must complete. You will do research on the questions and write brief essay responses relating it to the course content (and your personal experiences, when possible).

2) *Essay Requirement: Journal Articles*

This task requires you to write a review of three peer-reviewed or scholarly journal articles (blogs and news articles are not acceptable) of your choice on a topic related to this course.

Examinations-

At the end of each course section, you will be expected to complete an examination designed to assess your knowledge. There are a total of 4 exams in this course. You may take these exams a total of three times.

Grading

This online course uses **Letter Grading (A, B, C, or F).**

- **Writing assignments for this course comprise 50%** of the final grade.
- **The remaining 50% of the grade will be the average from the four (4) course examinations.**

Course Grading Scale for Letter Grades:

A = 90 - 100% of total score

B = 80 - 89%

C = 70 - 79%

F= below 70%

Scholastic Dishonesty

Students enrolled in this course are expected to be aware of the seriousness of scholastic dishonesty. Unacceptable behavior such as submitting someone else's work as your own, cheating on exams, or plagiarizing can result in failure of the course or other sanctions. For a more detailed description of these policies, please refer to the UND Code of Student Life; Appendix IIIa-3, at: <http://und.edu/student-affairs/code-of-student-life/>