

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

**ECHD – 255 FOUNDATIONS OF EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION**

**I. Basic Course Information**

A. Course Number and Title: ECHD 255 - Foundations of Early Childhood Education

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2009

D. Sponsoring Department: Humanities and Social Sciences and Education

E. Semester Credit Hours: 3

F. Weekly Contact Hours:   Lecture: 3  
  Laboratory: 1

G. Prerequisites: none

H. Laboratory Fees: none

I. Chair: Kimberly Schirner, [kschirner@raritanval.edu](mailto:kschirner@raritanval.edu)

**II. Catalog Description**

This course examines the historical and philosophical foundations of Early Childhood Education, Pre-school through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Current trends in primary education will be reviewed and evaluated with a focus on the public school system. Issues affecting the role of the early childhood teacher, including an overview of the profession, classroom management, teaching strategies related to the growth and development of the primary aged child, planning, and assessment will be explored.

**III. Statement of Course Need**

This course is required in the A.A. Degree in Early Childhood, the AAS Degree in ECHD, and the ECHD Certificate.

#### **IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum**

- A. Free Elective
- B. Not a General Education Elective
- C. Meets a requirement in the A.A. Degree in ECHD, AAS Degree in ECHD, and the ECHD Certificate program
- D. Course transferability: This course according to NJ Transfer, transfers to four year institutions.

#### **V. Outline of Course Content**

- A. Teaching as a profession
- B. Qualities of effective teachers
- C. Issues of diversity and multiculturalism
- D. Legal and ethical issues in education
- E. Social problems
- F. Technology in teaching
- G. School governance and finance
- H. Educational reform

#### **VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes**

##### **A. Educational Goals**

###### **Student will:**

1. describe the history of education in the United States (G.E. 6)
2. discuss society's expectations regarding the teaching profession (G.E. 5, G.E.6)
3. discuss basic legal and ethical aspects of education (G.E. 5)
4. demonstrate knowledge of how schools are funded and governed (G.E. 5, G.E.6)
5. examine personal commitment to the teaching profession through reflection (G.E. 1)
6. identify and evaluate current issues affecting education in the United States (G.E. 1, G.E. 2, G.E. 5, and G.E. 6)
7. identify and discuss issues of diversity and multiculturalism (G.E. 5, G.E. 6)

##### **B. Learning Outcomes**

###### **Students will be able to:**

1. describe important terms, trends, sequences, classifications, methods, principles, theories and other factual information in the area of education, based primarily on assigned readings and classroom lectures/discussion
2. demonstrate understanding of material from assigned readings and lecture: translating elements of the content into students' own words; interpreting the meaning of written and oral materials.
3. analyze the historical and philosophical foundations of and the current trends in the American educational system and apply them to issues affecting the role of the teacher.

## **VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning**

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. guest speakers
- D. simulation/role playing
- E. student collaboration

## **VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments**

- A. reflection papers
- B. research papers
- C. journals
- D. midterm and final examinations
- E. participation in class discussions

## **IX. Grade Determinants**

- A. A series of response papers
- B. Research paper
- C. Book review
- D. Reflection paper recounting service learning experiences in a public school
- E. Journals

## **X. Texts and Materials**

- A. Suggested Text:  
Henniger, M.L., (2005). Teaching Young Children: An Introduction. New Jersey: Pearson Merrill Prentice Hall.
- B. Observations
- C. Student Writing
- D. Web Sources

## **XI. Resources**

- A. CAT, Computer-Assisted Technology, classroom with Internet access.
- B. Document Camera