NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title: **Introduction to Early Childhood Education**   **Course #:** **ECE 101**

Course Description: 3 credits

This course explores the historical, philosophical and social perspectives of early childhood care and education. The importance of child development from birth to age eight is emphasized and used in observations of children, childcare settings and preschool programs. The course acquaints students with trends in educational settings, curriculum planning based on the knowledge of developmentally appropriate teaching practices, the role of the teacher in an early learning environment, and communication with both parents and professional specialists. Individual/group activities and experiences provide for the hands-on application of child development theory as well as the practical aspects of the physical, cognitive, creative, emotional and social development of the young child. Twelve (12) hours of observation in an approved early childhood education centers/programs is required.

Pre-requisite/Co-requisite: None

Goals: To provide the student with:

1) Through a historical approach, provide a thorough introduction to the field of early childhood care and education.
2) Define the young child and the role of caregivers/teachers in early childhood programs/settings.
3) Develop skills for as well as provide practice in setting up and evaluating early childhood programs.
4) Define curriculum and provide experiences demonstrating how to plan developmentally appropriate environments.
5) Explore the planning of multi-cultural, anti-bias curriculum and learning environments.
6) Investigate the connection between theory and practice in an early care and education settings.

Outcomes: With successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1) Identify and discuss developmental theories and their contributions to early care and education.
2) Define the history of early childhood care and education, including past and present philosophical and sociological perspectives.
3) Compare and contrast different types of early childhood program.
4) Describe the roles and responsibilities of the child, parent, caregiver and teacher in an early care and education setting.

5) Analyze and describe the relationship between play and development in young children.

6) Discuss developmentally appropriate teaching practices and how goals, objectives and assessments should reflect the individual character and uniqueness of the early childhood classroom.

7) Describe, explain and implement developmentally appropriate practice for individual children and groups of preschoolers.

8) Create activities for multi-cultural, anti-bias curriculum and learning environments.

9) Create and evaluate early childhood learning environments with particular attention to the diverse needs of all children, considering their individual needs and strengths.

10) Demonstrate an understanding of the connection between theory and practice in early childhood settings.

11) Discuss ethical concerns related to early care and education issues.