

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DIVISION OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Early Childhood Education
Revision Date: 07-01-26

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Course Number: ECED2070
Course Title: Family and Community Relationships
Prerequisite(s): None
Catalog Description: This course focuses on the development of skills, techniques, and attitudes needed to form successful collaboration with diverse family systems and communities. Ten hours of volunteer service learning required.
Credit Hours: 3.0
Class Hours: 45
Lab Hours: 0
Total Contact Hours: 45

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES: *Course will:*

- A. Recognize diverse and strong family characteristics and determine how educators can build upon their strengths and meet the needs of each family unit.
- B. Determine the role of the educator as a partner in assisting families facing challenges in today's world by identifying appropriate community resources for families and possible referrals.
- C. Analyze communication skills and methods that promote effective working relationships with families.
- D. Evaluate the impact of service to the community, as it relates to children and their families.
- E. Develop an awareness and appreciation of the individual likenesses and differences among children, families, and communities.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- A. Student Learning Outcomes: *Student will be able to:*
 - 1. Define diverse family structures and explain how to meet their unique needs.
 - 2. Evaluate diverse family case studies and determine ways to build on a family's strengths.
 - 3. Assess the challenges and issues facing families and establish professional and ethical methods of supporting them.
 - 4. Explain the importance of positive relationships between children, families, and community partners.
 - 5. Demonstrate the skills and abilities to create or enhance partnerships with families.
 - 6. Compile a reference/resource list of community resources to support families.
 - 7. Perform ten hours of volunteer service/service learning in agencies serving children and families.
 - 8. Synthesize how knowledge and experience from this course enhance the relationships among educators, families, and communities.
- B. General Education Learning Outcomes
 - 1. GELO #3: Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
Outcome: Evaluate the validity of arguments, alternatives, data, outcomes, and/or impacts of actions.

IV. CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE (*course outline may provide more detailed information*)

- A. Introduction to families
 - 1. Definition and demographics of modern families
 - 2. Roles parents play
 - 3. The importance of parents as advocates
- B. Family partnerships in early care and education
 - 1. Benefits of involving families for children, families and teachers
 - 2. Barriers to engaging families
 - 3. Foundations of successful relationships
- C. Methods for developing partnerships
 - 1. Communication with families
 - 2. Teachers, families and communities
 - 3. Components of home visits
- D. Making a partnership work
 - 1. Families with diverse backgrounds
 - 2. Families with challenging circumstances
 - 3. Resolving challenges

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Required Text(s):
 - 1. Gestwicki, Carol. *Home, School, and Community Relations: A Guide To Working with Families*. Current Edition.
- B. Other Resources:
 - 1. None.

VI. METHODS OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION

- A. Methods of presentation typically include a combination of the following:
 - 1. Instructor should make use of varied pedagogical techniques including several of the following: lectures, small and large discussion groups; collaborative projects, presentations by families, guest speakers, research, peer response and evaluation, journals, essays, conferences, computer-assisted instruction, interactive/creative methods, multimedia, and field trips.

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Methods of evaluation typically include a combination of the following:
 - 1. Course grades, at the determination of the instructor, will be based on class and group participation, daily work, exams, other presentations, projects, papers, and/or portfolio. Instructor will distribute evaluation and his/her grading policies to students at the beginning of each term.
- B. SCC GRADING SCALE

A+	95-100	C+	75-79	F	59 or less
A	90-94	C	70-74		
B+	85-89	D+	65-69		
B	80-84	D	60-64		

VIII. SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Volunteer ten service hours within the community.