

## Wallenpaupack Area School District

### Wallenpaupack Area High School

**Course Title:** Introduction to Early Childhood

**Length of Course:** Semester – 1 Credit

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#### District Policies:

##### ***Academic Integrity:***

Academic integrity is essential to the success of an educational community. Students are responsible for learning and upholding professional standards of research, writing, assessment, and ethics in their areas of study. Written or other work which students submit must be the product of their own efforts and must be consistent with appropriate standards of professional ethics. Academic dishonesty, which includes cheating, plagiarism, multiple submissions and other forms of dishonest or unethical behavior, is prohibited.

##### ***Assessment:***

The goal of grading is to report student progress and achievement to the parents to strengthen the home-school connection. The grade should accurately reflect the student's performance in mastering the PA Standards and the WASD curriculum.

##### ***Attendance:***

Regular school attendance is vitally important to academic success. Not only does attendance reinforce and enrich the learning process; it also establishes patterns and attitudes that will carry forward into adult work habits. Regular, consistent attendance is a prerequisite to successful school life. Children should be absent only in cases of illness or emergency.

##### ***Special Education:***

Our commitment to each student is to ensure a free appropriate public education which begins with the general education setting, with the use of Supplementary Aids and Services. Inclusive education describes the successful education of all students with the appropriate supports and services to participate in and benefit from the general classroom settings and other educational environments.

#### Course Description:

This course is designed for students who enjoy working with children and are considering a career in an early childhood education or a child-related field. Students will explore a range of topics in order to introduce them to the field of child care. Topics include preparing a safe environment for children, learning through play, working with special needs children, infant development, as well as exploring the types of careers related to the child care field. Students will create and present hands-on developmentally appropriate activities and materials to be used with the children during the World of Wonders (WOW) program as well as participate in the WOW program, a hands-on child development lab, which runs three days per week. Students may apply for enrollment into the Child Care Career & Technical Program after successful completion of this course.

#### Pennsylvania State Standards:

This program offers the curriculum framework as prescribed by the *Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences*.

#### Core Curriculum:

##### **Course Objectives:**

This course prepares students to work with children in a variety of roles ranging from early childhood education to parenting. Students will learn how to appropriately interact with children ages three through five, prepare an early childhood environment with activities that promote positive development, analyze safety precautions taken by toy companies and early childhood learning centers, understand how children develop in the infancy years, and create enriched learning opportunities and experiences for children through participation in the WOW program.

##### **Students will understand the importance of learning through play as demonstrated by the ability to:**

- Describe the types of play children engage in and the importance of each.
- Prepare activities for use in the WOW program that address the types of development discussed.
- Compare and contrast the types of play and identify which children are exhibiting those types of play during lab.

##### **Students will demonstrate the ability to prepare a safe environment for children by the ability to:**

- Identify potential safety concerns in the room and create a classroom safety plan.
- Research toy company websites to find recall lists to prepare a class presentation on toy safety.
- Create a handout informing parents of food allergies and how to prepare snacks that take food allergies into consideration.

**Students will demonstrate the ability to work with preschool-age children by the ability to:**

- Act as a “big helper” with their child throughout the semester in the WOW program.
- Encourage children to develop their physical, intellectual, emotional, and social skills by providing them with varied learning opportunities in the WOW program.
- Record daily observations and reflections of their work with the child after each WOW session.

**Students will demonstrate the ability to work with special needs children by the ability to:**

- Identify types of special needs in children and recognize services available to families.
- Research and create presentations explaining the different types of special needs.
- Create adaptations for each WOW lesson plan for special needs children.

**Students will demonstrate an understanding of infants and how they develop by the ability to:**

- Recognize the types of stimulation infants need to thrive.
- Produce a poster that illustrates each area of infant development.
- Care for a RealCare Baby during one WOW session.

**Students will demonstrate knowledge of the types of child care centers by the ability to:**

- Design environments and materials which are developmentally appropriate in an Early Childhood Program.
- Recognize and differentiate between the different types of early childhood programs.
- Prepare a brochure for parents that outline the benefits of each type of center and offers suggestions for choosing a center that meets the needs of the family.

**Students will demonstrate knowledge of the types of employment in the child care field by the ability to:**

- Identify and research careers related to children and their individual interests and aptitudes.
- Demonstrate a professional demeanor when working with children in the WOW program.
- Create an outline that lists the types of qualities necessary for an individual that works in a child care setting.

**Students will create a thematic unit that will be used in the WOW program by their ability to:**

- Design and create bulletin boards, make a showcase display, and create name tags to decorate the room for the theme.
- Generate lesson plans for math, science, social studies, language arts, and arts and crafts activities.
- Select age and theme appropriate children’s books to be displayed in the classroom library and be read during their theme.

**Major Activities to Support Course Objectives:**

**Student Responsibilities:**

***Attendance expectations:***

Attendance is central to your success in this class. Due to the hands-on nature of this class, the coursework is completed during the class period; therefore, any absence will result in the student missing work which must be completed. World of Wonders (WOW) hands-on child development labs are unable to be made-up; students are encouraged and expected to notify the teacher if they will be absent for a lab so arrangements may be made for another student to work with their child for the day.

***Homework expectations:***

Homework is generally not assigned in this class due to the hands-on nature of the course. If homework is assigned, students are expected to complete the homework and submit it within the time frame allotted.

**Make-Up Work:**

WOW child-development labs cannot be made up. Missing assignments must be turned in within the amount of days provided per the student handbook; it will be the student’s responsibility to request the make-up assignment unless other arrangements are made.

**Late Work:**

Penalties for late assignments will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Once a classwork/homework assignment has been reviewed in class, no credit will be awarded unless other arrangements have been made.

**Assessment:****Grading Components:**

Grading Category Weights are as follows:

Classwork/Homework	30%
World of Wonders Participation	30%
Tests/Projects	40%

**Content Pacing Guide:**

Topic	Major Assignments	Estimated Time
Developmentally Appropriate Practices	Class discussion on appropriate ways to communicate and work with children	1 block; Ongoing
World of Wonders Thematic Unit	Create a thematic unit consisting of lesson plans, classroom decorations, and book selection	5 blocks
Learning through Play	Identify types of play while observing children in WOW	2 blocks
Safe Environments	Identify safety concerns within the classroom; create a classroom safety plan; create an informational brochure on food allergies	4 blocks
Special Needs Children	Research types of special needs; create adaptations to thematic lesson plans to address special need considerations; produce a presentation on a specific special need	4 blocks
Infant Development	View video "10 Thing Every Child Needs"; create a poster that illustrates each of the items infants need to thrive; care for RealCare baby during one WOW session	5 blocks
Types of Child Care Centers	Create a brochure that describes the types of early childhood centers available for families	4 blocks
Employment in the Child Care Industry	Demonstrate a professional demeanor while working in WOW; create an outline that identifies the qualities necessary for an individual working in the child care industry	4 blocks
World of Wonders Hands-on Child Development Lab	Work with children in a real-time setting; record observations and reflections after each session; act in a professional manner similar to what would be expected in a child care environment	45 blocks; 3 blocks per week