

# South Plains College

## Course Syllabus

“South Plains College improves each student’s life.”

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Course Title: **CDEC 1358.271 Creative Arts in Childhood Education**

Semester: Summer 2026 10 wks. (6/2-8/4)

Office Hours: T 3:00-6:00

Class Times: Mondays 6:00 to 8:00, Room 124

M, W, Th, F By appointment [Booking Page Link](#)

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## General Course Information

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### Course Description

This course provides an exploration of principles, methods, and materials for teaching children music, movement, visual arts, and dramatic play through process-oriented experiences to support divergent thinking for children birth through age eight.

### Learning Outcomes

**Define** the creative process.

**Describe** the developmental sequences of creative arts.

**Analyze** teacher roles in enhancing creativity.

**Describe** concepts taught through the creative arts.

**Identify** components of creative environments.

**Access** creative arts activities.

**NAEYC Standard:** Standard 4. Developmentally, Culturally, and Linguistically Appropriate Teaching Practices

### Course Objectives

1. Define the creative process. (F7)
  - a. Describe factors that encourage and discourage creativity. (C10)
  - b. Compare process-oriented experiences to product-oriented experiences.
  - c. Describe how open-ended questioning techniques encourage divergent thinking.(C14)
2. Describe the role of play in a child’s growth and development and the developmental sequences. (C10)
  - a. Explain how play affects the development of children in all domains.
  - b. Contrast different types of play.
  - c. Discuss characteristics of social play at different ages.
3. Describe developmental sequences for creative arts.
  - a. Outline how children’s art develops.
  - b. Explain development of movement (gross-motor, fine-motor and perceptual awareness skills) in children.
  - c. Describe development of dramatic play in children.
4. Analyze teacher roles in enhancing creativity. (C5) (C6) (C7) (F7)

- a. Explain teacher roles in supporting visual arts in the classroom.
  - b. Describe teacher roles in providing music experiences.
  - c. Summarize teacher roles in promoting movement activities.
  - d. Outline teacher roles in encouraging creative dramatics/dramatic play.
5. Describe concepts taught through creative arts. (F7)
    - a. Summarize the role of visual arts, music, movement and creative drama in the overall development of children.
    - b. Outline concepts learned by children through participating in creative art, music, movement and dramatic play/creative drama. (F9) (F10)
    - c. Describe strategies for infusing culture through the creative arts curriculum. (F13)
    - d. Discuss ways that bias might influence children's behavior when participating in art, music, movement and dramatic play. (C9)
  6. Describe components of creative environments. (F7)
    - a. Describe environments that provide children with a wide range of experiences in the visual arts, music, creative drama and movement.
    - b. Describe materials that will enhance creativity in children. (F9)
  7. Plan, implement and assess child-centered activities for music, movement, visual and dramatic play. (C1) (F7)
    - a. Implement meaningful, integrated learning experiences in the arts, music, drama, and movement with other curriculum areas. (F9) (F13)

## Academic Integrity

It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own, any work which he or she has not honestly performed, is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences and possibly suspension.

**Cheating:** Dishonesty of any kind on examinations or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination, obtaining information during an examination from the textbook or from the examination paper of another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, and illegal entry or unauthorized presence in an office are examples of cheating.

**Plagiarism:** Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgement, is plagiarism. Therefore, any student who fails to give credit for quotations or essentially identical expression of material taken from books, encyclopedias, magazines and other reference works, or from the themes, reports or other writings of a fellow student, is guilty of plagiarism. This includes copying information from the text materials and related websites. A student's written work **MUST** be in his/her own words.

**Exams:** In this course the instructor reserves the right to require exams in a proctored setting, should it be deemed necessary to maintain the integrity of the coursework.

## SCANS and Foundation Skills

Basic Skills	Personal Qualities	Information	Systems
Thinking Skills	Resources	Interpersonal	Technology

## Evaluation Methods

1. Weekly reading assignments
2. Completion of weekly assignments
3. Final Project

## Specific Course Requirements

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### Text and Materials

Textbook and all reading material will be provided for you on Blackboard.

### Computer Requirements

Students are responsible for making sure they have computer access and skills needed for this class. Buying a personal computer is not required, but students do need regular access to one that meets course requirements. Computer labs are available for student use on the Levelland campus and at the Lubbock centers.

For this course, students will need: **Microsoft Word and Adobe Reader**

**Additional Resources:** [Instructional Technology](#)

**Blackboard** is an online learning platform that will be used throughout this semester. It allows students to access course materials, submit assignments, and communicate with the instructor and classmates.

### Attendance Policy

Students are expected to be punctual and to attend all classes. Attendance will be taken at each class session using a digital sign-in process. It is the responsibility of the student to sign in during each class. More than three absences from class may result in withdrawal of the student from class.

Two incidents of arriving late and/or leaving early will be counted as 1 absence. Attendance records will be considered in the computation of final grades. The last drop date for the college is **July 30, 2026**.

### Assignment Policy

All assignments will be completed and/or submitted on Blackboard.

**Assignments are due on the dates specified in the course calendar**, before 11:59pm.

**Late work is only accepted with prior approval from the instructor.**

- To request approval, students must send a written request through Blackboard messages at least 48 hours before the assignment is due.
- Approval is at the instructor's discretion.
- If approved, late submissions will incur a 10% deduction of the total points available per week late.
- Late work cannot be submitted more than two weeks past the original due date.
- No late work will be accepted after Week 14 of the semester to allow time for final grading.
- Unauthorized late work will not be accepted.

## Grading Policy

Weekly Journal	500 points
Creative Activity Share	300 points
Presentations	200 points
	1000 points

Final Grades		
900-1000 points	90-100%	<b>A</b>
800-899 points	80-89%	<b>B</b>
750-799 points	75-79%	<b>C</b>
700-749 points	70-74%	<b>D</b>
699 points & below	(69%)	<b>F</b>

A grade of C or above is required for course to be applied to certificate or degree in Child Development.

## Communication Policy

Primary communication between instructor and students in this course should take place through **Blackboard Messages**.

**Students may expect instructor responses to email messages within 48 hours.**

## Student Conduct

Students are expected to follow the standards of student conduct as defined in [SPC Student Guide](#).

## Course Syllabus Statements

All students are required to review the official South Plains College syllabus statements, which provide important information regarding college policies and student resources. These include statements on intellectual exchange, accessibility services, non-discrimination, pregnancy and parenting accommodations, campus safety, COVID-19 procedures, appropriate use of artificial intelligence, and more.

**These policies apply to all courses and are available at the following link:**

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>

## Course Outline

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| I. Creative Process                                | II. Celebrating Visual Art                           |
| a. Child-Centered Art vs Teacher-Directed Projects | a. Drawing and early writing                         |
| b. Understanding Creativity                        | III. Planning for Literature                         |
| c. Creative Thinking                               | IV. Encouraging Play and Drama and Introducing Music |
| d. Creative Experiences                            | V. Sensory Experiences                               |
| e. Art and the Developing Child                    |  |

## Scans Competencies

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### RESOURCES

C-1 **TIME** - Selects goal - relevant activities, ranks them, allocates time, prepares and follows schedules.

C-2 **MONEY** - Uses or prepares budgets, makes forecasts, keeps records and makes adjustments to meet objectives.

C-3 **MATERIALS AND FACILITIES** - Acquires, stores, allocates, and uses materials or space efficiently.

C-4 **HUMAN RESOURCES** - Assesses skills and distributes work accordingly, evaluates performances and provides feedback.

### **INFORMATION - Acquires and Uses Information**

C-5 Acquires and evaluates information.

C-6 Organizes and maintains information.

C-7 Interprets and communicates information.

C-8 Uses computers to process information.

### **INTERPERSONAL–Works With Others**

C-9 Participates as members of a team and contributes to group effort.

C-10 Teaches others new skills.

C-11 Serves Clients/Customers–works to satisfy customer’s expectations.

C-12 Exercises Leadership–communicates ideas to justify position, persuades and convinces others, responsibly challenges existing procedures and policies.

C-13 Negotiates–works toward agreements involving exchanges of resources; resolves divergent interests.

C-14 Works With Diversity–works well with men and women from diverse backgrounds.

### **SYSTEMS–Understands Complex Interrelationships**

C-15 Understands Systems–knows how social, organizational, and technological systems work and operates effectively with them.

C-16 Monitors and Corrects Performance–distinguishes trends, predicts impacts on system operations, diagnoses systems performance and corrects malfunctions.

C-17 Improves or Designs Systems–suggests modifications to existing systems and develops new or alternative systems to improve performance.

### **TECHNOLOGY–Works with a Variety of Technologies**

C-18 Selects Technology–chooses procedures, tools, or equipment, including computers and related technologies.

C-19 Applies Technology to Task–understands overall intent and proper procedures for setup and operation of equipment.

C-20 Maintains and Troubleshoots Equipment–prevents, identifies, or solves problems with equipment, including computers and other technologies.

### **Foundations Skills**

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### **BASIC SKILLS–Reads, Writes, Performs Arithmetic and Mathematical Operations, Listens and Speaks**

F-1 Reading – locates, understands, and interprets written information in prose and in documents such as manuals, graphs, and schedules.

F-2 Writing – communicates thoughts, ideas, information and messages in writing and creates documents such as letters, directions, manuals, reports, graphs, and flow charts.

F-3 Arithmetic – performs basic computations; uses basic numerical concepts such as whole numbers, etc.

F-4 Mathematics – approaches practical problems by choosing appropriately from a variety of mathematical techniques.

F-5 Listening – receives, attends to, interprets, and responds to verbal messages and other cues.

F-6 Speaking – organizes ideas and communicates orally.

### **THINKING SKILLS–Thinks Creatively, Makes Decisions, Solves Problems, Visualizes and Knows How to Learn & Reason**

F-7 Creative Thinking – generates new ideas.

F-8 Decision-Making – specifies goals & constraints, generates alternatives, considers risks, evaluates & chooses best alternative.

F-9 Problem Solving – recognizes problems, devises and implements plan of action.

F-10 Seeing Things in the Mind’s Eye – organizes and processes symbols, pictures, graphs, objects, and other information.

F-11 Knowing How to Learn – uses efficient learning techniques to acquire and apply new knowledge and skills.

F-12 Reasoning – discovers a rule or principle underlying the relationship between two or more objects and applies it when solving a problem.

### **PERSONAL QUALITIES–Displays Responsibility, Self-Esteem, Sociability, Self-Management, Integrity and Honesty**

F-13 Responsibility – exerts a high level of effort and perseveres towards goal attainment.

F-14 Self-Esteem – believes in own self-worth and maintains a positive view of self.

F-15 Sociability – demonstrates understanding, friendliness, adaptability, empathy and politeness in group settings.

F-16 Self-Management – assesses self accurately, sets personal goals, monitors progress and exhibits self-control.

F-17 Integrity/Honesty – chooses ethical courses of action.

# National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

## Professional Standards and Competencies for Early Childhood Educators

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### **Standard 1. Child Development and Learning in Context**

1a: Understand the developmental period of early childhood from birth through age 8 across physical, cognitive, social and emotional, and linguistic domains, including bilingual/multilingual development.

1b: Understand and value each child as an individual with unique developmental variations, experiences, strengths, interests, abilities, challenges, approaches to learning, and with the capacity to make choices.

1c: Understand the ways that child development and the learning process occur in multiple contexts, including family, culture, language, community, and early learning setting, as well as in a larger societal context that includes structural inequities.

1d: Use this multidimensional knowledge – that is, knowledge about the developmental period of early childhood, about individual children and about development and learning in cultural contexts – to make evidence-based decisions that support each child.

### **Standard 2. Family-Teacher Partnerships and Community Connections**

2a: Know about, understand and value the diversity of families.

2b: Collaborate as partners with families in young children's development and learning through respectful, reciprocal relationships and engagement.

2c: Use community resources to support young children's learning and development and to support families, and build partnerships between early learning settings, schools, and community organizations and agencies.

### **Standard 3. Child Observation, Documentation, and Assessment**

3a: Understand that assessments (formal and informal, formative and summative) are conducted to make informed choices about instruction and for planning in early learning settings.

3b: Know a wide range of types of assessments, their purposes, and their associated methods and tools.

3c: Use screening and assessment tools in ways that are ethically grounded and developmentally, ability, culturally, and linguistically appropriate in order to document developmental progress and promote positive outcomes for each child.

3d: Build assessment partnerships with families and professional colleagues.

### **Standard 4. Developmentally, Culturally, and Linguistically Appropriate Teaching Practices**

4a: Understand and demonstrate positive, caring, and supportive relationships and interactions as the foundation of early childhood educators' work with young children.

4b: Understand and use teaching skills that are responsive to the learning trajectories of young children and to the needs of each child, recognizing that differentiating instruction, incorporating play as a core teaching practice, and supporting the development of executive function skills are critical for young children.

4c: Use a broad repertoire of developmentally appropriate, culturally and linguistically relevant, anti-bias, evidence-based teaching skills and strategies that reflect the principles of universal design for learning.

### **Standard 5. Knowledge, Application, and Integration of Academic Content in the Early Childhood Curriculum**

5a: Understand content knowledge – the central concepts, methods and tools of inquiry, and structure – and resources for the academic disciplines in an early childhood curriculum.

5b: Understand pedagogical content knowledge – how young children learn in each discipline – and how to use the teacher knowledge and practices described in Standards 1-4 to support young children's learning in each content area.

5c: Modify teaching practices by applying, expanding, integrating, and updating their content knowledge in the disciplines, their knowledge of curriculum content resources and their pedagogical content knowledge.

### **Standard 6. Professionalism as an Early Childhood Educator**

6a: Identify and involve themselves with the early childhood field and serve as informed advocates for young children, families, and the profession.

6b: Know about and uphold ethical and other early childhood professional guidelines.

6c: Use professional communication skills, including technology-mediated strategies, to effectively support young children's learning and development and to work with families and colleagues.

6d: Engage in continuous, collaborative learning to inform practice.

6e: Develop and sustain the habit of reflective and intentional practice in their daily work with young children as members of the early childhood profession.