Fall 2026
ECED 1110 550: Child Growth, Development, and Learning (3 Credit Hours)

Instructor: Karen Walter
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Office/Office Hours: Thursdays and Fridays 1:30 PM- 2:30 PM or by appointment Zoom Link: Meeting ID: 532 596 0902

*Land Acknowledgement: Founded in 1889, the University of New Mexico sits on the traditional homelands of the Pueblo of Sandia. The original peoples of New Mexico Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache since time immemorial, have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide. We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations and also acknowledge our committed relationship to Indigenous peoples. We gratefully recognize our history.*

Course Description:
This basic course in the growth, development, and learning of young children, prenatal through age eight, provides students with the theoretical foundation for becoming competent early childhood professionals. The course includes knowledge of how young children grow, develop and learn. Major theories of child development are integrated with all domains of development, physical, social, cultural, emotional, cognitive and language. The adult's role in supporting each child's growth, development and learning is emphasized.

Prerequisites and Co-requisites -N/A

Course Goals:
This course is part of the articulated Universal Catalogue of Courses for Early Childhood Education in the State of New Mexico. The following objectives are taken from the New Mexico State Department of Education's Common Core Competencies for early childhood professionals (see Common Core Content manual). Upon completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate the following competencies at the established level of proficiency:

A.1 -Incorporate understanding of developmental stages, processes, and theories of growth, development, and learning into developmentally appropriate practice.
A.2. -Demonstrate knowledge of the interaction between maturation and environmental factors that influence physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and cultural domains in the healthy development of each child.
A.3. -Demonstrate knowledge of the significance of individual differences in development and learning. Demonstrate knowledge of how certain differences may be associated with rate of development and developmental patterns associated with developmental delays and/or specific disabilities.
A.4 -Demonstrate knowledge of the similarities between children who are developing typically and those with diverse abilities.

A.7 -Demonstrate knowledge of the many functions that language serves in the cognitive, social, and emotional aspects of development in the formative years.
A.8 -Demonstrate knowledge of the developmental sequence of language and literacy, including the influence of culture and home factors.
A.9 -Demonstrate knowledge of how children acquire and use verbal, non-verbal, and alternative means of communication.
A.10 -Demonstrate knowledge of the relationship among emotions, behaviors, and communication skills to assist children in identifying and expressing their feelings in appropriate ways.
A.11 -Use appropriate guidance to support the development of self-regulatory capacities in young children.

Evaluation:
This course is competency based. Student competency will be evaluated through a variety of assignments such as projects, presentations, writing assessments, exams, and experiences. (See Grading)

Textbook (not required):
All sources will be provided by the instructor.

Dual Credit
Dual Credit is a program which provides public high school students the opportunity to receive credit for both a high school course and a college course by taking a single qualifying course. For more information, please see the UNM-Valencia Course Catalog.

**Technology:**
**Access to UNM Canvas is Imperative!!! Please see below for specific technical requirements**

Course Outline: UNM- Valencia courses begin Aug. 17th. The dates in this course outline may be shifted due to High School schedule changes.

Week 1- Course Introduction, Syllabus and Classroom Structure, and "Who am I?"

Week 2- The Brain/information; Prenatal Development, Physical, Emotional, and Cognitive Development of infants; Intro to Domains and Milestones

Week 3 Reflection

Week 4 Theories and Theorists (Expanded)

Week 5- Theories and Theorists continued

Week 6- Culture and Brain Development

Week 7 and 8 – Introduction to the Domains and Milestones –
and making the connection between parts of the brain and domains and milestones.
Developmental landmarks in physical and motor competence and the relationship between physical-motor development and **social/emotional development**

Week 9- Reflection

Week 10- **Culture/Neurodivergence** - Domains/Cognitive Dev.

Week 11- **Culture/Neurodivergence** - Domains/ Language and Literacy Dev./Alternative Modes of Communication

Week 12- Domains/Physical Motor Dev./The similarities between children who are developing typically and those with diverse abilities.

Week 13- **Culture/Neurodivergence** - Domains/Social, Emotional Dev.

Week 14- Reflection

Thanksgiving

Week 15- Review

Week 16- Final

Grading

- Attendance/Communication 25%
- Classroom small group participation and presentations 20%
- Reflections 20%
- Assignments 10%
- Final Exam 25%

Total 100%

Percentages and Grade Equivalent:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 100-97 A+ | 96-93 A | 92-90 A- |
| 89-87 B+ | 86-83 B | 82-80 B- |
| 79-77 C+ | 76-73 C | 72-70 C- |
| 69-66 D+ | 65-62 D | 61-59 D- |

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**Technical Requirements**

Computer

- A high-speed Internet connection is highly recommended.
- Supported browsers include: Detailed Supported Browsers and Operating Systems
- Any computer capable of running a recently updated web browser should be sufficient to access your online course. However, bear in mind that processor speed, amount of RAM and Internet connection speed can greatly affect performance.
- For the best experience when using the Kaltura Media Tools inside UNM Canvas, be sure to use a supported browser on a desktop.
- Microsoft Office products are available free for all UNM students (more information on the UNM IT Software Distribution and Downloads page)
- Please update your contact information in Loboweb: MyUNM Login. When you log into MyUNM, Enter LoboWeb. Click on the Personal Information link to make sure your contact information is up to date.

**Web Conferencing/ Zoom**

Web conferencing will be used in this course in your class.

- A high-speed internet connection is highly recommended for these sessions if done other than on campus.
- A wireless Internet connection may be used if successfully tested for audio quality prior to web conferencing.

We will meet via Web Conferencing several times during the semester. These times will be announced by your classroom teacher.

**Coursework and Participation**

Instructor Response Time

I welcome you to contact me whenever you have a question or need some assistance or clarification. I routinely check the course for postings or emails, Monday- Thursday (8 am-5pm and Fridays until 12 PM). I may also check email sometimes in the evenings and on the weekends. You can anticipate a 24 to 48-hour response from me, Monday Thursday. I will try and respond to all weekend (Friday afternoon to Sunday) emails and postings by noon on Monday or earlier.

Netiquette- See Netiquette document in Canvas Course “Introduction”

**Submitting Assignments**

When you submit an assignment via Canvas. You will receive an email receipt of your submission. Save this email as confirmation of your submission.

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**Accommodations:**
UNM is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for students with documented disabilities. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an inclusive classroom setting, in which students have full access and opportunity to participate. To engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations for this class and/or program, please contact Accessibility Resource Center at arcsrvs@unm.edu or 505277-3506.

UAP 2720 and 2740.
Our classroom and university should foster mutual respect, kindness, and support. If you have concerns about discrimination, harassment, or violence, please seek support and report incidents. Find confidential services at LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center, the Women's Resource Center, and the LGBTQ Resource Center. UNM prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including gender, sex stereotyping, gender expression, and gender identity). All instructors are "responsible employees" who must communicate reports of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence to Compliance, Ethics and Equal Opportunity. For more information, please see UAP 2720 and UAP 2740.

**Academic honesty and AI use**
Responsible Learning and Academic Honesty: Cheating and plagiarism (academic dishonesty) are often driven by lack of time, desperation, or lack of knowledge about how to identify a source. Communicate with me and ask for help, even at the last minute, rather than risking your academic career by committing academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty involves claiming that work created by another source is your own original work. It is a Student Code of Conduct violation that can lead to a disciplinary procedure. When you use a resource in work submitted for this class, document how you used it and distinguish clearly between your original work and the material taken from the resource.

**Thriving and Finding Support:**
Students are especially successful at UNM when they take advantage of support and get involved in campus and academic life. Your MyUNM login page provides direct links to wellbeing resources, including financial capability, mental health, food, jobs, and resource centers. MyUNM will help you identify academic resources like peer tutoring and opportunities like study abroad. You can contact academic advisors and resource advisors for information and guidance via Student Hub on MyUNM. I look forward to providing you with information about academic opportunities related to our class and to helping you find support resources.
UNM POLICIES- For more on UNM Policies please visit: The Pathfinder; UNM's Student Handbook https://pathfinder.unm.edu/

**UNM Policies:**

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This course falls under all UNM policies for last day to drop courses, etc. Please see or the UNM Course Catalog for information on UNM services and policies. Please see the UNM academic calendar for course dates, the last day to drop courses without penalty, and for financial disenrollment dates.