

2023-2024

NWKTC Catalog and Student Handbook

Childcare Specialist (online only)

Description:

The Childcare Specialist program prepares students to serve as teacher's aides and Lead Teachers in a variety of child care facilities that serve infants, toddlers, and pre-school age children. Core concepts to be addressed include the developmental stages (physical, social, intellectual, and emotional) of infants, toddlers and pre-school aged children; legal and ethical considerations in child care; observing and recording children's behavior, and building relationships with the children's families and the community at large.

Degree/Certificates awarded:

AAS

Tech Cert A, Tech Cert B

Accreditation/Certification:

The Council for Professional Development - CDA (Child Development Associate)

Program Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the program, students will be able to:

1. Plan a safe and healthy learning environment for infants, toddlers and pre-school-aged children
2. Advance children's physical development
3. Advance children's intellectual development
4. Advance children's social development
5. Advance children's emotional development
6. Implement strategies for building relationships with families and communities
7. Observe and record children's behavior
8. Abide by principles of ethical conduct and professionalism, following local, state and federal laws pertaining to child care.

Program Schedule:

This program is offered online, with a variety of practicum experiences that must take place in a local child care facility. Students will work with the program instructor to secure the practicum sites.

PROGRAM GUIDE

YEAR I: FIRST SEMESTER

Course #	Course Name	Credits
CCS 100	Principles of Child Development and Learning	3
CCS 105	Early Childhood Health and Safety	1
CCS 110	Pediatric First Aid and CPR	1
CCS 115	Early Childhood Physical and Intellectual Development	3
CCS 130	Observing and Recording Children's Behavior	2
CCS 132	Child Care Observations	1
CCS 140	Childcare Regulations and Operations	2
CCS 155	Child Care Lab I: Infants/Toddlers...OR	4
CCS 160	Child Care Lab I: Preschoolers...OR	
CCS 165	Child Care Lab I: In Home Care...OR	
CCS 166	Child Care Lab I: Home Visitor	
SO 100	Student Success Seminar (Required)	1

YEAR I: SECOND SEMESTER

Course #	Course Name	Credits
CCS 120	Early Childhood Social and Emotional Development	3
CCS 125	Building Relationships with Families and Communities	1
CCS 135	Early Childhood Ethics and Professionalism	1
CCS 145	Preparation for CDA Certification	1
CCS 150	Portfolio Development for Early Childhood	3
CCS 170	Nutrition for the Young Child	1
CCS 175	Young Children with Special Needs	1
CCS 156	Child Care Lab II: Infants/Toddlers...OR	3
CCS 162	Child Care Lab II: Preschoolers...OR	
CCS 167	Child Care Lab II: In Home Care...OR	
CCS 168	Child Care Lab II: Home Visitor	
CCS 157	Child Care Lab III: Infants/Toddlers...OR	3
CCS 163	Child Care Lab III: Preschoolers...OR	
CCS 169	Child Care Lab III: In Home Care...OR	
CCS 171	Child Care Lab III: Home Visitor	

YEAR II: FIRST SEMESTER

Course #	Course Name	Credits
CCS 200	Early Childhood Language and Literacy	3
CCS 205	Early Childhood Inclusion and Diversity	3
COMM 150	Interpersonal Communication (or Communications Elective)	3
HUM 105	Ethics (or Gen Ed Elective)	3
MATH 115	College Algebra	3

MATH 117 College Algebra w/Review
 YEAR II: SECOND SEMESTER

Course #	Course Name	Credits
ART 101	Art Appreciation (or Gen Ed Elective)	3
BA 215	Personal Finance *Required	3
CCS 210	Recognizing Abuse and Neglect	1
CCS 215	Creative Experiences with Young Children	2
CF 101	Computer Fundamentals (or Science Elective)	3
ENGL 110	English Composition I (or Communications Elective)	3

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CCS 100 PRINCIPLES OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING (3 credits)

This course provides an overview of theories addressing the psychosocial stages of children (birth to eight years of age). Special attention will be paid to the learning process and how child care providers can enhance children’s development by incorporating age-appropriate strategies and techniques derived from the various theoretical orientations.

CCS 105 EARLY CHILDHOOD HEALTH AND SAFETY (1 credit)

This course provides an in-depth look at how infants and toddlers interact with their physical environments, leading to health and safety concerns. Students will research how to create and maintain a safe and healthy environment that meets and/or surpasses state guidelines.

CCS 110 PEDIATRIC FIRST AID AND CPR (1 credit)

This course provides hands-on training for administering first aid and CPR to infants, toddlers and preschoolers. This course will require physical attendance to complete the training; students should work with instructors to identify the dates/times of training.

CCS 115 EARLY CHILDHOOD PHYSICAL AND INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT (3 credits)

This course provides an overview of the milestones and developmental tasks related to physical and cognitive/intellectual growth of infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

CCS 120 EARLY CHILDHOOD SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT (3 credits)

This course provides an overview of the milestones and developmental tasks related to social and emotional growth of infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

CCS 125 BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES. (1 credits)

This course introduces the principles of collaborating with and educating the families and communities in which the child care provider operates. Students will be required to identify relevant resources within their local communities that will address the needs of families with young children.

CCS 130 OBSERVING AND RECORDING CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR (2 credits)

This course introduces the skills and processes necessary for observing and recording children's behavior. Ethical considerations and confidentiality will be emphasized. Students will practice skills by visiting child care settings to observe children's behavior. The final project in this class requires students to apply their knowledge by conducting an in-depth study of one child, preparing a professional write-up of the child's developmental levels.

CCS 132. CHILDCARE OBSERVATIONS. 1 CR

This course introduces students to the range of options available to them in the early childhood field. They will observe child care in a variety of settings including but not limited to Head Start, faith-based preschool, in-home childcare, childcare center and home visiting. Students will explore the differences between the various settings and consider their skills and preferences to guide their career trajectory.

CCS 135 EARLY CHILDHOOD ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM 1 CR

This course provides an exploration of ethical dilemmas that the child care provider may face. Emphasis will be placed on how to resolve moral/ethical dilemmas in a professional manner. Additional topics include how child care providers engage in professional development, join professional organizations, and advance their careers.

CCS 140 CHILD CARE REGULATIONS AND OPERATIONS 2 CR

This course introduces the regulations pertaining to child care settings in the state of Kansas. Students will identify regulations such as fire safety inspections, child-provider ratios for each type of child care setting; licensing regulations; mandates for reporting incidents and other requirements that are current at time of the class. Additional topics include record keeping, budgeting, facility managements, family involvement, and hiring/training/supervising/evaluating staff.

CCS 145 PREPARATION FOR CDA CERTIFICATION 1 CR

This course provides an overview of the expectations and requirements for individuals preparing to enter the child care setting in the state of Kansas. Preparing for the CDA certification and child care lab experiences will be emphasized. Students will be required to meet eligibility requirements (background check; TB test; other vaccinations or tests as required by current laws or guidelines). Students who do not pass the background check or other required tests will not be eligible to enter the child care setting.

CCS 150 PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD 3 CR

This course provides an opportunity for students to prepare their CDA-required professional portfolio, which is a collection of reference materials related to working with children and families. Portfolios must adhere to the CDA Competency Standards.

CCS 155 CHILD CARE LAB I: INFANTS/TODDLERS 4 CR

This course provides an opportunity for students to complete the CDA-required professional work experience focusing on infants. Students will complete at least 160 hours of working directly with infants. Other requirements for this class include planning age-appropriate activities, documenting observations of children, and written reflections on the work experience.

CCS 156 CHILD CARE LAB II: INFANTS/TODDLERS

3CR

This course provides an opportunity for students to complete the CDA-required professional work experience focusing on infants. Students will complete at least 160 hours of working directly with infants. Other requirements for this class include planning age-appropriate activities, documenting observations of children, and written reflections on the work experience.

CCS 157 CHILD CARE LAB III: INFANTS/TODDLERS

3CR

This course provides an opportunity for students to complete the CDA-required professional work experience focusing on infants. Students will complete at least 160 hours of working directly with infants. Other requirements for this class include planning age-appropriate activities, documenting observations of children, and written reflections on the work experience.

CCS 160 CHILD CARE LAB I: PRESCHOOLERS

4 CR

This course provides an opportunity for students to complete the CDA-required professional work experience focusing on toddlers. Students will complete at least 160 hours of working directly with toddlers. Other requirements for this class include planning age-appropriate activities, documenting observations of children, and written reflections on the work experience.

CCS 162 CHILD CARE LAB II: PRESCHOOLERS

4 CR

This course provides an opportunity for students to complete the CDA-required professional work experience focusing on toddlers. Students will complete at least 160 hours of working directly with toddlers. Other requirements for this class include planning age-appropriate activities, documenting observations of children, and written reflections on the work experience.

CCS 163 CHILD CARE LAB III: PRESCHOOLERS

3 CR

This course provides an opportunity for students to complete the CDA-required professional work experience focusing on toddlers. Students will complete at least 160 hours of working directly with toddlers. Other requirements for this class include planning age-appropriate activities, documenting observations of children, and written reflections on the work experience.

CCS 165 CHILD CARE LAB I: IN-HOME CARE

4 CR

This course provides an opportunity for students to complete the CDA-required professional work experience focusing on preschoolers. Students will complete at least 160 hours of working directly with preschoolers. Other requirements for this class include planning age-appropriate activities, documenting observations of children, and written reflections on the work experience.

CCS 167 CHILD CARE LAB II: IN-HOME CARE

3 CR

This course provides an opportunity for students to complete the CDA-required professional work experience focusing on preschoolers. Students will complete at least 160 hours of working directly with preschoolers. Other requirements for this class include planning age-appropriate activities, documenting observations of children, and written reflections on the work experience.

CCS 169 CHILD CARE LAB III: IN-HOME CARE

3 CR

This course provides an opportunity for students to complete the CDA-required professional work experience focusing on preschoolers. Students will complete at least 160 hours of working directly with preschoolers. Other requirements for this class include planning age-appropriate activities, documenting observations of children, and written reflections on the work experience.

CCS 166 CHILD CARE LAB I: HOME VISITOR

4 CR

This course provides an opportunity for students to complete the CDA-required professional work experience focusing on preschoolers. Students will complete at least 160 hours of working directly with preschoolers. Other requirements for this class include planning age-appropriate activities, documenting observations of children, and written reflections on the work experience.

CCS 168 CHILD CARE LAB II: HOME VISITOR

3 CR

This course provides an opportunity for students to complete the CDA-required professional work experience focusing on preschoolers. Students will complete at least 160 hours of working directly with preschoolers. Other requirements for this class include planning age-appropriate activities, documenting observations of children, and written reflections on the work experience.

CCS 171 CHILD CARE LAB III: HOME VISITOR

3 CR

This course provides an opportunity for students to complete the CDA-required professional work experience focusing on preschoolers. Students will complete at least 160 hours of working directly with preschoolers. Other requirements for this class include planning age-appropriate activities, documenting observations of children, and written reflections on the work experience.

CCS 170 NUTRITION FOR THE YOUNG CHILD

1 CR

This course introduces the basic factors that impact child health. Students will identify and apply the nutritional guidelines for providing meals and snacks to children in the child care setting. Students will also prepare informational materials targeting families of young children regarding nutritional guidelines.

CCS 175 YOUNG CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

1 CR

This course offers an overview of various physical or developmental challenges that may impact child care. Skills pertaining to providing quality care and education along with issues such as positioning, feeding, adaptive equipment, family dynamics, and invasive procedures will be covered.

CCS 200 EARLY CHILDHOOD LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

1 CR

This course introduces theories regarding how young children acquire and develop language skills. The relationship between language and literacy will be explored. Students will find age-appropriate language skills (games, books) for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

CCS 205 EARLY CHILDHOOD INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

3 CR

This course introduces theories of inclusion while exploring a broad spectrum of factors that create diversity among young children. Special emphasis on how child care providers can help young children understand and include individuals who may be different from themselves.

CCS 210 RECOGNIZING ABUSE AND NEGLECT

1 CR

This course provides an overview of signs and symptoms pertaining to childhood abuse and neglect. Students will learn how to identify the symptoms and how to make referrals to appropriate authorities.

CCS 215 CREATIVE EXPERIENCES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

2 CR

This course will examine why play is important to the child's development. Special emphasis will be placed on the various developmental domains and milestones (physical, social, emotional, etc.)