

California Community Colleges Curriculum Alignment Project –CAP Expansion

Introduction to Children with Disabilities or Delays

Description

An introduction to the variations in the development of children with disabilities or delays ages birth through eight. Includes an overview of historical and societal influences, laws relating to children with disabilities or delays, and the assessment and referral process. Emphasizes the importance of working in partnership with families and specialists to support children’s development.

Objectives

1. Describe the progression of children’s development across developmental domains.
2. Discuss the different characteristics of disabilities and delays.
3. Review the key contributions of developmental theorists, advocates, and legal decisions in influencing best practices in early childhood inclusion and special education.
4. Identify resources, agencies, and specialists that support the needs of children with disabilities or delays and their families.
5. Explain family-centered practices that support the optimal development of children within the context of their family and community.
6. Summarize the steps for the assessment and referral process.

Content

1. Historical Overview of Early Intervention/Special Education

- a. Theory and educational foundations
- b. Laws and regulations
 - i. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
 1. Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)
 2. Individualized Education Program (IEP)
 3. Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE)
 - ii. Inclusion
 - iii. Least restrictive and natural environments
- c. Representative and respectful language
 - i. People-first language
 - ii. Identity-first language
- d. Advocacy and public policy
- e. Ethics and professional behaviors

2. Developmental progression

- a. Sequence of development and interrelationship between domains
- b. Variations in development
- c. Prenatal development and risk factors
- d. Genetically inherited conditions
- e. Environmental factors

- f. Cognitive
 - g. Communication/language
 - h. Social and emotional
 - i. Mental health
 - j. Physical Development
- 3. Supporting families**
- a. Grief, stress, and coping strategies
 - b. Family-centered approach
- 4. Developmental screening and assessments**
- a. Collaborative assessment process
 - i. Observation
 - ii. Documentation
 - iii. Screening
 - iv. Assessment
 - v. Input from families
 - vi. Coordinating assessments
 - b. Referral
 - i. Partnering with families
 - ii. Access to resources and agencies
 - iii. Collaboration with early interventionists and therapists