MODULE #	WEEK #	Topic	Assignment	Format
Module 1	Week 1	Introduction Developmentally Appropriate Practices in Early Childhood	**Discussion Post 1-** Introduce yourself and respond to two peers. **Discussion Post 2-** Define and describe developmentally appropriate practices in 300 words. Respond to two peers.	**Discussion Post 1** **Discussion Post 2**
	Week 2	Curriculum and Standards Direct Instruction Explicit Instruction	Create a **PowerPoint presentation** that explains the difference between curriculum and standards in early childhood education. Define each term, highlighting how curriculum provides the framework for teaching and learning, while standards set the expectations for student outcomes. In your presentation, also describe what direct and explicit instruction is, and provide examples of what this looks like in an early childhood classroom (e.g., teacher modeling, clear instructions, guided practice). Include visuals, key points, and brief descriptions to make the content engaging and informative. Your presentation should clearly demonstrate how these concepts relate to effective teaching strategies in early childhood settings.	**Assignment- PPT**
	Week 3	EC Approaches	Create a **historical timeline** for two early childhood approaches.	**Historical Timeline**

			Create a historical timeline comparing two early childhood education approaches (e.g., Montessori, Reggio Emilia, HighScope, Waldorf). Your timeline should include key events, founding figures, and major milestones for each approach. Highlight similarities and differences in their philosophies, teaching methods, and impact on early childhood education. Use visuals, dates, and brief descriptions to make the timeline clear and engaging. Be prepared to reflect on how these approaches influence current early childhood practices.	
	Week 4	**EC Approaches**	Create a **compare and contrast matrix** for two early childhood education approaches that you did not use for the historical timeline (e.g., Bank Street, Play-based learning, Head Start, or Creative Curriculum). In your matrix, include categories such as philosophy, curriculum structure, teacher's role, learning environment, and assessment methods. Use rows to list these categories and columns for each approach, providing clear descriptions of how each approach differs in these areas. This matrix should help highlight the key features, similarities, and differences between the two	**Compare and Contrast Matrix**

			approaches. Ensure your matrix is well-organized and easy to read, with concise and informative points for each category.	
	Week 5	**Pedagogical Methods**	Create a **virtual poster** that explains pedagogical methods in early childhood. Record a two-minute presentation about the poster and submit the assignment. **Discussion Post 3**- Pick one pedagogical method and describe how it is implemented in the classroom. Respond to two peers.	**Virtual Poster/ Video Session Discussion Post 3**
	Week 6	**Technology Integration**	Define technology in Early Childhood Education- Explain and demonstrate three ways to use technology in an Early Childhood Classroom. **Video Post Assignment: Technology in Early Childhood Education** **Objective:** Create an engaging video post where you define technology in early childhood education and explain three effective ways it can be used in the classroom. 1. **Introduction (Define Technology in Early Childhood Education):** o Begin your video with a clear definition of technology in the context of early childhood education.	**Video Post**

			o Highlight its importance and role in enhancing learning experiences for young children.
			2. **Demonstration (Explain and Showcase Three Ways to Use Technology):**
			  o Choose three specific examples of how technology can be integrated into an early childhood classroom.
			  o For each example, include:
			    ▪ A brief explanation of the tool or method.
			    ▪ A demonstration or visual representation of how it works.
			    ▪ Its educational benefits and how it supports early learning goals.
			3. **Video Requirements:**
			  o Duration: 3–5 minutes.
			  o Format: Creative and engaging (you can include visuals, props, or screen shares).
			  o Tone: Professional yet accessible for educators and parents.
			4. **Submission Instructions:**	

			- Upload your video to [designated platform/location]. - Include a brief description or reflection (3–4 sentences) on how these technological tools align with early childhood education standards and best practices. **5. Evaluation Criteria:** - Clarity and accuracy of the definition. - Relevance and creativity in demonstrating the three examples. - Professionalism and visual engagement of the video. - Reflection on alignment with educational standards.	
Module 2	**Week 7**	**Science of Reading**	**Response Paper – The Science of Reading in Early Childhood Classrooms** Write a 350–500 word paper discussing the science of reading and its application in developmentally appropriate early childhood classrooms. Explain how key principles (e.g., phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, and writing) can be implemented through play-based and experiential learning but also	**Response Paper (350-500 words)** **Discussion Post 4**

| | | | incorporate with direction and explicit instruction. Provide specific examples of strategies or activities that support literacy instruction with developmentally appropriate practices and builds knowledge. Conclude by reflecting on the importance of tailoring reading instruction to meet young children's needs.

Discussion Post- In your post, explain why oral language development and read-alouds are critical in early childhood education. Discuss how read-alouds support vocabulary growth, comprehension, and social-emotional skills, and provide examples of effective strategies for engaging children during read-alouds (e.g., asking open-ended questions or encouraging predictions). Share your thoughts on how oral language builds a foundation for literacy and communication. Respond to at least two peers by reflecting on their ideas and suggesting additional strategies or insights. | |
| | **Week 8** | Content and Curricula Integration- Social Emotional | Create an **interactive story** that integrates a subject-related theme (e.g., math, science, literacy) with social-emotional skills like self-awareness, | **Interactive Story** |

		Executive Function Skills	decision-making, and empathy. Develop a plot where the main character faces a challenge and include decision points where readers choose the character's actions. Use visuals, text, and optional audio to bring the story to life in a storyboard, slides, or digital format. Reflect on how your story connects content, emotions, and problem-solving skills.	
	Week 9	Content and Curricula Integration-ELA **Higher-Order Thinking Questions**	Create a short **podcast episode** (3–5 minutes) designed for young children that promotes early literacy skills and encourages higher-order thinking. Choose a familiar story, rhyme, or theme, and include engaging questions that prompt children to predict, analyze, or make connections (e.g., "What do you think happens next?" or "Why do you think the character felt that way?"). Use clear language, sound effects, or music to make the episode engaging and age-appropriate. Reflect on how your episode supports listening comprehension, critical thinking, and early language development.	**Podcast Episode**
Module 3	**Week 10**	Content and Curricula Integration-Math	**Blog Post Assignment:** Math Integration in Early Childhood Education	**Blog Post Concept Map**

Objective: Write an informative and engaging blog post that highlights the importance of integrating math into early childhood education and provides practical examples of how it can be implemented effectively.

1. **Introduction (Why Math Matters in Early Childhood):**
   - Start with a brief overview of the role of math in early childhood development.
   - Discuss how early exposure to math concepts supports cognitive, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills.
2. **Content (Key Elements of Math Integration):**
   - Define what content and curricula integration means in the context of early childhood education.
   - Explain why math should be seamlessly woven into daily activities and not treated as a standalone subject.
3. **Examples of Math Integration:**
   - Provide **three specific examples** of how math concepts can be integrated into everyday activities.
   - Examples could include:

			▪ **Play-based learning:** Using blocks to teach shapes, patterns, and measurements.
			▪ **Daily routines:** Counting steps, snack items, or calendar activities.
			▪ **Storytime math:** Reading books with counting, patterns, or spatial relationships.
			4. **Conclusion (Impact of Math Integration):**
			   o Summarize the benefits of integrating math into early childhood curricula.
			   o Encourage readers (educators or parents) to incorporate simple, meaningful math activities in their daily interactions with children.
			5. **Formatting Requirements:**
			   o Length: 400–600 words.
			   o Structure: Use headings, subheadings, and bullet points to make the post reader-friendly.
			   o Tone: Informative, approachable, and engaging for educators and parents.	

				6. **Supplemental Elements (Optional):**	
				o Include visuals or links to resources such as math-based children's books, games, or activities.	
				o Share a short anecdote or success story related to math integration in a classroom or home setting.	

Concept Map

Create a detailed concept map that shows relationships between ideas, with annotations explaining the connections and their importance.

Assignment: Concept Map – Math Integration in Early Childhood Education

Objective: Create a detailed concept map that visually represents the relationships between ideas related to integrating math into early childhood education, including annotations explaining the connections and their importance.

1. **Central Idea:**
   - o Place **"Math Integration in Early Childhood Education"** as the central concept.

				o Use a clear and visually distinct shape (e.g., a circle or rectangle) for the central idea.
				2. **Key Branches (Main Topics):**
				o Create at least **three main branches** extending from the central concept. Suggested main topics include:
				▪ **Play-Based Learning**
				▪ **Daily Routines**
				▪ **Literacy**
				3. **Subtopics and Details:**
				o For each main branch, add sub-branches to detail specific examples or strategies.
				▪ Example for **Play-Based Learning:**
				▪ Blocks for shapes and patterns.
				▪ Sorting games for counting and categorizing.
				4. **Annotations (Explanations):**
				o For each branch and sub-branch, add a brief annotation (1–2 sentences) explaining the connection

			and its importance. For example:	

			- **Blocks for Shapes and Patterns:** "Using blocks helps children develop spatial awareness and pattern recognition, key foundational math skills."
			- **Counting Steps:** "Incorporating counting into routines makes math a natural part of a child's day and enhances number recognition."
			5. **Design and Presentation:**
			   o Use color-coding or visual cues (e.g., icons, different line styles) to distinguish between branches and sub-branches.
			   o Ensure the layout is clear and easy to follow. Digital tools like Canva, Lucid chart, or hand-drawn maps are acceptable.
			6. **Submission Requirements:**
			   o Submit your concept map as a digital file (JPEG, PNG, or PDF) or a scanned copy of a hand-drawn version.	

			o Ensure that annotations are legible and placed near the relevant branches. 7. **Evaluation Criteria:** o Completeness: Inclusion of all main topics and relevant subtopics. o Clarity: Clear relationships between ideas and annotations. o Visual Appeal: Organized, engaging, and easy to navigate. o Depth: Quality and relevance of annotations explaining the connections.	
	Week 11	Content and Curricula Integration-Science	**Blog Post Assignment:** Science Integration in Early Childhood Education **Objective:** Write an engaging and informative blog post that highlights the importance of integrating science into early childhood education. Provide practical examples and strategies for fostering curiosity and exploration in young learners. 1. **Introduction (Why Science in Early Childhood?):**	**Blog Post** **Concept Map**

			- o Begin by explaining the significance of science in early childhood education. - o Highlight how science fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and a sense of curiosity. - o Mention how young children naturally explore the world around them, making science integration seamless and meaningful. **2. Content (Key Elements of Science Integration):** - o Define what science integration means in the context of early childhood education. - o Emphasize the importance of hands-on, play-based learning to explore scientific concepts. **3. Practical Examples of Science Integration:** - o Provide **three specific examples** of science integration in early childhood settings. Examples could include: ▪ **STEM in Play:** Building structures with blocks, exploring ramps, or using	

measuring tools to understand stability, force, and measurement.

4. **Tips for Educators and Parents:**
   o Share tips for making science integration accessible and engaging.
   o Examples: Use everyday moments (e.g., cooking, weather observations) to discuss scientific ideas, or ask open-ended questions to spark curiosity.

5. **Conclusion (Encouraging Science Exploration):**
   o Summarize the benefits of integrating science into early childhood education.
   o Encourage educators and parents to create a nurturing environment that fosters exploration and discovery.

6. **Formatting Requirements:**
   o Length: 400–600 words.
   o Use headings, subheadings, and bullet points to make the post easy to read.
   o Tone: Informative, approachable, and engaging for educators and parents.

Evaluation Criteria:

- **Content:** Clear, relevant, and meaningful discussion of science integration.
- **Creativity:** Practical, engaging, and innovative examples of science activities.
- **Structure:** Organized and easy-to-read formatting with proper use of headings and subheadings.
- **Audience Engagement:** Writing is engaging and accessible for educators and parents.

Concept Map

Create a detailed concept map that shows relationships between ideas, with annotations explaining the connections and their importance.

Assignment: Concept Map – Science Integration in Early Childhood Education

Objective: Create a detailed concept map that visually represents how science can be integrated into early childhood education. Include specific examples, connections, and annotations explaining the importance of science in fostering

			curiosity, exploration, and critical thinking in young learners.	

			1. **Central Idea:**
			   o Place **"Science Integration in Early Childhood Education"** as the central concept.
			   o Use a visually distinct shape (e.g., a circle or rectangle) to highlight the central idea.
			2. **Key Branches (Main Topics):**
			   o Create at least **three main branches** extending from the central concept. Suggested main topics include:
			      ▪ **Nature and Environment**
			      ▪ **Physical Science and Experiments**
			      ▪ **STEM and Everyday Explorations**
			3. **Subtopics and Details:**
			   o For each main branch, include at least **two to three sub-branches** detailing specific activities or strategies. Example:
			      ▪ **Nature and Environment:**	

				▪ Observing plants and animals.
				▪ Gardening and discussing the life cycle of plants.
				4. **Annotations (Explanations):**
				    ○ Add brief explanations (1–2 sentences) for each branch and sub-branch. These should highlight the importance of the activity and its impact on learning. For example:
				        ▪ **Gardening:** "Gardening helps children understand plant growth, responsibility, and the importance of caring for living things."
				        ▪ **Sink or Float Experiment:** "This activity encourages critical thinking and introduces basic scientific concepts like density and buoyancy."
				5. **Design and Presentation:**
				    ○ Use colors, symbols, or icons to make the map	

				visually appealing and easy to navigate.	
				○ Draw connections between related subtopics across branches, where applicable (e.g., "Gardening" connects to "STEM through measuring plant growth"). ○ Create the concept map digitally (using Canva, Lucid chart, or similar tools) or draw it by hand. **6. Submission Requirements:** ○ Submit your concept map as a digital file (JPEG, PNG, or PDF) or as a clear scanned copy of a hand-drawn version. ○ Ensure annotations are clearly labeled and legible. **7. Evaluation Criteria:** ○ **Completeness:** Includes all required branches and subtopics. ○ **Clarity:** Clearly shows relationships between ideas. ○ **Annotations:** Provides meaningful explanations for connections and their importance.	

			o **Creativity:** Visually engaging and organized presentation.	
	Week 12	Content and Curricula Integration-The Arts	**Discussion post**- In your post, describe what art integration looks like in an early childhood classroom and how it supports learning across subjects (e.g., literacy, math, science). Share specific examples or ideas, such as using painting to retell a story, creating sculptures to explore shapes, or acting out scenes to build comprehension. Discuss the benefits of integrating art for creativity, fine motor skills, and self-expression. Respond to at least two peers by offering additional ideas or reflecting on how their strategies could enhance learning experiences.	**Discussion Post 5**
Module 4	**Week 13**	**STEAM**	Write a **response paper** describing how to implement a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) integrated approach in an early childhood classroom. Discuss specific strategies or activities that connect STEAM concepts to developmentally appropriate practices, such as hands-on experiments, creative projects, or problem-solving tasks. Include examples of how this approach supports curiosity, critical thinking, and collaboration among young learners. Conclude by reflecting on the benefits of	**Response Paper 250 words** **STEAM Lesson Plan**

| | | | STEAM integration for children's overall development and learning.

STEAM Lesson Plan
Objective: Create a concise STEAM lesson for early childhood that integrates science, technology, engineering, art, and math concepts while incorporating a read-aloud.

Lesson Components:

1. **Introduction**
   - Briefly introduce the topic using a question or a problem to solve.
2. **Read-Aloud**
   - Choose a story or informational book relevant to the topic.
   - Choose vocabulary to highlight
3. **STEAM Activity**
   - Provide a hands-on activity that integrates STEAM elements.
4. **Wrap-Up**
   - Reflect on the activity: Example: "What did you learn about how animals stay warm? How did your shelter help?"
5. **Materials Needed** | |

			6. How do you plan to assess learning?	
	Week 14	Content and Curricula Integration- Health and Physical Development	**Discussion Post**- In your post, explain how physical development is supported in early childhood classrooms through activities like outdoor play, fine and gross motor skill exercises, and movement-based learning. Discuss how physical activity enhances learning by improving focus, coordination, and cognitive development, and share examples of activities that integrate movement with academic concepts (e.g., jumping while counting, or acting out a story). Reflect on why it's important to provide daily opportunities for physical activity in early learning environments. Respond to at least two peers by offering additional ideas or sharing your perspective on their strategies.	**Discussion Post 6**
BREAK	**BREAK**			
Final/ Project	**Week 15**	**Theory Application Portfolio**	Create a portfolio demonstrating how you integrate content and curriculum to meet the needs of children in a developmentally appropriate way. Choose a child development theory (e.g., Piaget, Vygotsky, Erikson) and explain how it informs your teaching practices. Provide examples of activities or lessons that align with the theory, showing how they support	**PPT Presentation with video**

			children's learning and development across subjects (e.g., literacy, math, science, or art). Use visuals, descriptions, or reflections to illustrate how the activities are age-appropriate and promote engagement. Ensure your portfolio clearly connects theory to practice while addressing individual and group needs.	

Course Requirements/Due Dates

- **Course Requirements**

Activity	Number	Points per assignment	Total points possible	DUE
Discussion Board Posts and Replies	6	20	120	
Curriculum and Standards PowerPoint	1	50	50	
Historical Timeline	1	50	50	
Compare and Contrast Matrix	1	50	50	
Virtual Poster/ Video Session	1	100	100	
Video Post- Technology Integration	1	50	50	
Response Papers	2	150	300	
Interactive Story	1	75	75	
Podcast Episode	1	100	100	
Blog Posts	2	75	150	
Concept Maps	2	50	100	
STEAM Lesson Plan	1	100	100	
Theory Application Portfolio with PPT and video	1	300	300	
Course Total Points Possible			**1,545**	

Course Purpose

This course is designed to provide early childhood educators with a comprehensive understanding of developmentally appropriate practices (DAP) and their application in diverse learning environments. Participants will explore the intricate relationship between curriculum frameworks and standards, emphasizing the effective use of direct and explicit instruction to enhance teaching strategies. Educators will compare and evaluate historical and contemporary approaches through critical analysis, fostering a deeper appreciation for varied pedagogical philosophies. The course also integrates technology as a pivotal tool in early childhood classrooms, examining its role in promoting learning and development. With a strong emphasis on the science of reading, participants will learn to craft literacy activities that nurture oral language and reading skills while aligning with best practices. Finally, the course encourages educators to design interdisciplinary STEAM lessons, inspiring creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration in young learners.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

Students will…

1. **Understand Developmentally Appropriate Practices**
    o   Recognize and define developmentally appropriate practices (DAP) in early childhood education.
    o   Identify strategies for applying DAP principles across various learning environments.
    o   Relate theories of early childhood education to appropriate practices in early childhood classrooms.
2. **Analyze Curriculum and Standards in Early Childhood Education**
    o   Explain the relationship between curriculum frameworks and standards in early childhood settings.
    o   Differentiate between direct and explicit instruction and describe their application.
3. **Compare Early Childhood Education Approaches**
    o   Compare historical and contemporary early childhood education approaches.
    o   Evaluate the philosophies and practices of different pedagogical methods.
4. **Integrate Technology into Early Childhood Learning**
    o   Demonstrate effective ways to incorporate technology into early childhood classrooms.
    o   Assess the role of technology in supporting young children's learning and development.
5. **Apply Principles of the Science of Reading**
    o   Explore how phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, and writing principles can be integrated into early childhood instruction.
    o   Create developmentally appropriate literacy activities that support oral language and reading development.

6. **Develop STEAM and Integrated Lesson Plans**
   - Plan and implement interdisciplinary lessons that connect science, technology, engineering, arts, and math.
   - Reflect on the impact of STEAM activities on curiosity, critical thinking, and collaboration.

Course student learning outcomes	How students will practice each outcome in this course	How student achievement of each outcome will be assessed in this course
Recognize and define developmentally appropriate practices (DAP) in early childhood education.	Readings, discussion posts, and replies Portfolio development	Written Assignments
Identify strategies for applying DAP principles across various learning environments.	Readings, discussion posts, and replies Portfolio development	Written Assignments
Relate theories of early childhood education to appropriate practices in early childhood classrooms.	Readings, discussion posts, and replies Portfolio development	Written Assignments
Explain the relationship between curriculum frameworks and standards in early childhood settings.	Readings and Lecture Portfolio development	Written Assignments- PowerPoint
Differentiate between direct and explicit instruction and describe their application.	Readings and Lecture Portfolio development	Written Assignments- PowerPoint
Compare historical and contemporary early childhood education approaches.	Develop historical timelines of selected approaches. Create compare-and-contrast matrices to analyze philosophies and teaching methods.	Written Assignments

Evaluate the philosophies and practices of different pedagogical methods.	Readings, discussion posts, and replies Portfolio development	Virtual Poster Video Presentation Written Assignment
Demonstrate effective ways to incorporate technology into early childhood classrooms.	Record video post showcasing technology integration strategies. Discuss the role of technology in enhancing learning outcomes through posts and peer responses.	Video Post Written Assignment
Assess the role of technology in supporting young children's learning and development.	Record video post showcasing technology integration strategies. Discuss the role of technology in enhancing learning outcomes through posts and peer responses.	Video Post Written Assignment
Explore how phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, and writing principles can be integrated into early childhood instruction.	Written assignment and reflection	Response Paper Written Assignment
Create developmentally appropriate literacy activities that support oral language and reading development.	Readings, discussion posts, and replies	Written Assignment

Plan and implement interdisciplinary lessons that connect science, technology, engineering, arts, and math.	Readings, lectures, discussion posts, replies, and written assignments	Interactive Story Podcast Episode Blog Post Concept Map Written Assignment Lesson Plan
Reflect on the impact of STEAM activities on curiosity, critical thinking, and collaboration.	Written assignment and reflection Portfolio development	Response Paper