



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

HFS 202

The Development of Children

2021-2022

(3 credits)

Faculty: Rachel Razza, Ph.D.; Associate Professor; Dept. of Human Development & Family Science

Administrative Contact: Eric Young, Senior Associate Director, Project Advance

HFS 202, The Development of Children, is an overview of the principles of development during infancy, childhood, and youth and the factors that contribute to children's optimal development. The course provides students with an understanding of developmental theories, research methodology, developmental milestones, and the outcomes of developmental processes. In addition, students learn to apply the knowledge and skills they acquire in the classroom to applied settings in order to integrate these experiences. Dr. Razza has developed exercises to accomplish these goals or local instructors can tailor experiences to the individual needs of students or to the resources available in their schools.

The course content covers theories and research on child development including biological development, physical development, language and cognitive development, social development, and personality development. In particular, the course examines societal, cultural, and other factors that influence children's development. Upon completion of the course, students should have a greater understanding of children and their development that should be useful to parents and others who work with children and should be better prepared to pursue careers in childcare and educational settings. In addition to SUPA college credit the successful student should be able to apply this experience to certifications such as the Child Development Associate (CDA) certificate administered in New York.

Course Outline

1. Historical and theoretical roots of development and developmental research strategies.
2. Hereditary, prenatal, and physical development.
3. Emotional, language and cognitive development during infancy.
4. Cognitive, language, and intellectual development.
5. Development of the self and gender roles.
6. Moral, prosocial and antisocial behavior
7. Contexts of development: families, peers and the media

The graded assignments for this course include five quizzes to assess students' acquisition of classroom materials and two written exercises that provide an applied experience for students. The quizzes will include a combination of multiple-choice questions and matching. Students have the option of

(Over)

completing 2 out of 3 written assignments, each 3-4 pages in length (double-spaced). An overview of the three assignments is provided below.

CHILDREN IN THE REAL WORLD. For this assignment you should choose a “real world” (not a daycare or preschool) location where you can observe children **OR** the effects that the environment has on children. For example, you may choose to observe children at a playground or at a children’s matinee at a theater. You may also choose to observe environments created for or directed towards children, for example a toy store or Chucky Cheese-type establishment. You should ask yourself the “What, Where, When, Why, and How” questions provided, altered to match the situation or environment you have chosen.

CHILDREN’S LITERATURE. For this assignment you will need to review a book written for children (not about children). Good sources for children’s books will be local bookstores (you can buy or just browse), your local public library where you should be able to borrow a book, or books available for children in your home. You should ask yourself the “What, Where, When, Why, and How” questions provided.

CHILDREN IN THE MEDIA. For this assignment you will be looking to media sources for their portrayals of children. You may choose to read an article from the New York Times about children **OR** you may analyze children’s television shows on **PBS** or other educational forms of media. You will again ask yourself the same “What, Where, When, Why, and How” questions altered to match the situation or the type of media you have chosen. Your focus for this assignment is on how children are portrayed, how children’s issues are addressed, or how the media is designed to appeal to or influence children. (Pay attention to advertisements if they appear.)

Required Text/Readings

Title/Author (Publisher)	Price Per Copy	Ordering Source
<i>Child Development: An Active Learning Approach</i> , 4th Edition; Levine, L. E., & Munsch, J. (2021) ISBN: 9781544359779 eText - ISBN: 9781544359748	\$95.00 \$52.00	Amazon https://www.vitalsource.com

Prices are subject to change.