

Early Childhood Programs
Mississippi State University-Extension Service
Course Catalog March 2009

The Mississippi Child Care Resource & Referral Network, part of the Mississippi State University Extension Service (MSU-ES), provides classes, trainings, and support materials for early care and education providers. Our goal is to provide an educational experience that promotes the integration of knowledge and professional practice from the fields of child/youth development and family studies. We enable early care and education providers to supply quality childcare, positive guidance, and nurturance for children.



Course Title	Course Description	Contact Hours
<p style="text-align: center;">Early Learning Guidelines: Director’s Training</p>	<p>This training is designed to familiarize directors and director-designees with the <i>Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Three- Year- Old Children</i>, and the <i>Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Four- Year- Old Children</i>. The Early Learning Guidelines are designed to provide research-based strategies that ensure high quality learning standards for Mississippi's early childhood programs. The Early Learning Guidelines provide a framework to incorporate all of the early childhood theories and practices emphasizing environments, curriculum, activities, and assessments that meet the needs of <i>all</i> children.</p>	<p>6</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Early Learning Guidelines: How Children Learn <u>Part 1</u></p>	<p>New scientific data has taught us that the strengthening or weakening of a child’s brain cells depends on the child’s experiences. This training will focus on the “How Children Learn” section of <i>Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Three- Year- Old Children</i>, and <i>Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Four- Year- Old Children</i>. Participants will learn how a child’s early learning matters and specific activities that caregivers should engage children in to promote healthy development in all areas of learning.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Early Learning Guidelines: The Learning Environment <u>Part 1</u></p>	<p>Young children strive to understand the world around them. It is natural for young children to explore and investigate their indoor and outdoor space. This training will focus on the “The Learning Environment” section of <i>Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Three- Year- Old Children</i>, and <i>Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Four- Year- Old Children</i>. Participants will learn how to provide a safe and appropriate indoor and outdoor space for young children and how to examine the environment carefully to create an inviting and stimulating space that fosters creativity, independence, and enhanced learning.</p>	<p>2</p>

Course Title	Course Description	Contact Hours
<p>Early Learning Guidelines: Language, Vocabulary, and Literacy Development for 3-and 4-Year-Old Children</p>	<p>The development of language and early literacy skills is the most important cognitive achievement of early childhood. Language allows children to understand others and the world around them, to express their thoughts and feelings, and to interact with others in meaningful ways. This training will focus on the “Language, Vocabulary, and Literacy Development” sections of <i>Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Three- Year- Old Children</i>, and <i>Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Four- Year- Old Children</i>. Participants will learn how to incorporate centers and thematic units with language, vocabulary, and literacy development.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>Early Learning Guidelines: Mathematical Concepts for 3-and 4-Year-Old Children</p>	<p>Developing a solid mathematical foundation is essential for every child. Mathematics is everywhere and relates to almost every experience in a young child’s life. Young children experience mathematics naturally and spontaneously as they inquire, explore, interact and try to make sense of their world. This training will focus on the “Mathematical Concepts” section of <i>Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Three- Year- Old Children</i>, and <i>Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Four- Year- Old Children</i>. Participants will learn how mathematics is interrelated with other subject areas such as science, art, language, physical movement, and music.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>Early Learning Guidelines: Scientific Investigation for 3- and 4-Year-Old Children</p>	<p>A young child’s natural curiosity about the world in which he or she lives demands a hands-on approach to the study of science. Scientific investigations allow children to take risks and ask numerous questions. This training will focus on the “Scientific Investigation” section of <i>Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Three- Year- Old Children</i>, and <i>Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Four- Year- Old Children</i>. Participants will learn a how to incorporate a hands-on approach to scientific investigation through thematic units and centers.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>Early Learning Guidelines: Physical Development for 3-and 4-Year-Old Children</p>	<p>Physical movement is the center of a young child’s life. Physical movement activities are critical for building a foundation in cognitive abilities, emergent literacy, mathematics, and for strengthening social and emotional development through movement. This training will focus on the “Physical Development” section of <i>Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Three- Year- Old Children</i>, and <i>Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Four- Year- Old Children</i>. Participants will learn how to incorporate opportunities for children to participate in experiences that foster fundamental gross motor and movement skills.</p>	<p>2</p>

Course Title	Course Description	Contact Hours
<p align="center">Early Learning Guidelines: Social/Emotional Development of Young Children <u>Part 2</u></p>	<p>Caring relationships with responsive adults (e.g. <i>parents, educators, caregivers</i>) help young children develop emotional security and social competence. These attachments serve as a model for later interactions with peers and support the children’s participation in learning environments. This training will focus on the “Social/Emotional Development of Young Children” section of <i>Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Three- Year- Old Children</i>, and <i>Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Four- Year- Old Children</i>. Participants will be provided with insight into the skills children need to positively engage in a learning environment. Participants will learn how to encourage the development of both intrapersonal skills (e.g., <i>positive self-concepts and the ability to regulate their emotions and behavior</i>) and interpersonal skills (e.g., <i>ability to develop positive and supportive relationships with others</i>) by emphasizing centers and thematic units.</p>	<p align="center">3</p>
<p align="center">Early Learning Guidelines: Assessments and Observational Strategies <u>Part 2</u></p>	<p>Assessment of children’s individual development and learning is essential for planning and implementing an appropriate curriculum. The assessment or the definition of the child’s individual progress is to be determined through the on-going observations recorded by the early care and education provider. This training will focus on the “Assessments and Observational Strategies” sections of <i>Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Three- Year- Old Children</i>, and <i>Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for Four- Year- Old Children</i>. Participants will learn how to observe activities in which the child practices a specific skill in a natural classroom setting to determine each child’s strengths and weaknesses.</p>	<p align="center">3</p>
<p align="center">Care to Read: Understanding Early Language and Literacy Development</p>	<p>Learning about language and literacy is a gradual, ongoing process. This training provides an overview of the “Care to Read” curriculum with an emphasis on early language and literacy development. Participants will be able to summarize and apply knowledge of the typical stages children go through as they gain listening, talking, reading, and writing skills.</p>	<p align="center">2</p>
<p align="center">Care to Read: Creating Literacy-Rich Environments</p>	<p>A literacy rich environment allows children to explore, make discoveries, and build their own language and literacy knowledge and skills. The emphasis of this training is how to create a literacy-rich environment. Whether for a center-based or home-based setting, we’ll provide tips for arranging and outfitting an environment that invites children to listen, talk, read, and write.</p>	<p align="center">2</p>

Course Title	Course Description	Contact Hours
Care to Read: Where Conversation Leads	Conversations are opportunities for children to share information and enjoy other people’s company. Children gain conversation skills during daily routines, transitions, activities, and experiences. This training will help providers support the development of listening and speaking skills by modeling how language is used to communicate, responding to and talking with children, and reading aloud.	2
Care to Read: Reading Aloud	Reading aloud to young children is one of the most effective ways to support language and literacy development. Participants will learn how to select books that are developmentally and individually appropriate for the children in their care, and learn how to read aloud in a way that engages and actively involves young children.	2
Care to Read: Making My Mark	Children pass through stages as they develop drawing and writing skills. Children also construct their own knowledge about conventional writing at the same time they are learning about speaking and reading. Providers will learn how to provide materials, activities, and interactions that support children’s development of eye-hand coordination, visual perception, drawing and writing skills, alphabet knowledge, and phonemic awareness.	2
Care to Read: Supporting Language and Literacy Every Day	Language and literacy skills support both cognitive and social development. This workshop helps participants learn how to plan, implement, and evaluate activities and experiences that engage children in language and literacy learning.	2
Creative Curriculum for Infants & Toddlers: Why Quality Matters	The purpose of this workshop is to define the factors that constitute a quality program and explore the impact of quality programs on children and families.	2
Creative Curriculum for Infants & Toddlers: Defining Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers	The purpose of this workshop is to clarify what is meant by “curriculum”, to identify what a curriculum offers, and to consider some common misconceptions about using a curriculum in working with infants and toddlers.	2
Creative Curriculum for Infants & Toddlers: The Central Role of Caregivers/Teachers	This workshop is designed to promote participants’ awareness of the wide range of personal and professional experiences they bring to their roles, and to highlight the range of responsibilities involved in caring for infants and toddlers.	2
Creative Curriculum for Infants & Toddlers: Knowing Infants and Toddlers	To plan and implement a developmentally appropriate program, caregivers must have realistic expectations of what children can do and what they are ready to learn at each stage of development. This workshop introduces participants to typical development in the first three years of life as well as to the ways children are unique.	2

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Creative Curriculum for Infants & Toddlers: Observing Infants and Toddlers	This workshop will show how to make time to conduct ongoing observation of children and record the information in a systematic way.	2
Creative Curriculum for Infants & Toddlers: Planning and Individualizing	This workshop introduces participants to a set of planning forms based on the goals and objectives of The Creative Curriculum. Participants use information to develop a plan for a specific child.	2
Creative Curriculum for Infants & Toddlers: Working with Families	This workshop is designed to help caregivers/teacher define their role in working with families. The more early care and education providers learn about families, the more they can be responsive to and supportive of the children in their care.	2
Creative Curriculum for Infants & Toddlers: Creating A Welcoming Environment	This training will focus on setting up a classroom, selecting and organizing materials, and working with families in infant and toddler classrooms.	2
Creative Curriculum for Infants & Toddlers: Promoting Safety and Health	This workshop is to increase participants' knowledge of safety and health issues so they can better ensure children's safety and promote their health.	2
Creative Curriculum for Infants & Toddlers: Guiding Children's Behavior	When young children begin learning how to control their own behavior, they are more likely to become adults who make reasonable decisions and relate to others in positive ways. This workshop is designed to help participants learn ways to guide children's behavior in positive ways, to prevent unnecessary behavior problems, and to work with families on goals for their children's behavior.	2
Creative Curriculum for Infants & Toddlers: The Routine of Routines	The purpose of this workshop is to help infant/toddler caregivers master the "routine" side of routines – following health and safety procedures, having materials on hand, managing the whole group while focusing on one child – so they can use routines as special times to build relationships and promote learning.	2
Creative Curriculum for Infants & Toddlers: Activities Day by Day	Activities for infants and toddlers are not planned tasks or events that take place with a group of children, but are the opportunities caregivers offer children to explore and make discoveries by placing appropriate and interesting materials in the environment, observing how children use these materials, and responding to their interests and initiatives. Participants will be guided in providing opportunities for infants and toddlers to enjoy playing with toys, dabbling in art, imitating and pretending, tasting and preparing food, exploring sand and water, having fun with music and movement, and going outdoors.	2

Course Title	Course Description	Contact Hours
Creative Curriculum for Infants & Toddlers: Early Literacy Experiences	Participants will learn about the six early literacy skills that are necessary before a child can learn to read and what types of activities may be used with babies and very young children to build these skills. Guidelines for choosing developmentally appropriate books for infants and toddlers at different age levels will be taught, as well as some demonstration of fun and frustration-free ways to use books with babies.	2
Right from Birth	This video series is designed to teach parents and early care and education providers how to supply children with the necessary skills and foundation for future learning and success in school.	6
What Do You Do With the Mad That You Feel?	Angry feelings are a natural part of being human, and children aren't born with self-control. In this workshop, early care and education providers will find helpful ways to think about anger and self-control, and learn about activities that can support the development of self-control.	3
Challenging Behaviors: Where Do We Begin?	Challenging behaviors are not only difficult for the child who is exhibiting them; they are very difficult for their teachers, their classmates, and the families of all the children in the class. This workshop will provide insight into challenging behavior and self-regulation.	3
Books You Can Count On: Preschool Math Concepts & Children's Literature	Even if you think you're mathematically challenged, you can use fun and unique children's books to introduce and reinforce basic math concepts with young children! We will discuss different types of fun learning activities to use and how different books can teach math skills. Participants will use a variety of children's books to show how they can introduce basic math concepts (size, shapes, counting, patterns, sorting, and measuring).	2
We Are the Same, We Are Different: Bringing Diversity into the Classroom	This training will emphasize the ECERS classroom assessment scales by using books, activities, and stories to enhance diversity on a daily basis in the classroom.	2
Smart and Healthy Kids	Healthy Start focuses on wellness concepts and behaviors for children ages 3 to 5. The program is centered on children, their environment, and their family, and includes family activities. Animal Trackers and Healthy Hops are two courses that focus on physical activity and nutrition within the classroom and in the children's homes.	4
Between the Lions	The "Between the Lions" Preschool Literacy Initiative is a comprehensive early literacy program. The curriculum is designed to help preschoolers develop a strong foundation in early literacy. Based on the PBS television show, this material showcases a unique educational tool that features puppets, animation, songs, and humor to build skills that help children become strong readers.	2

Course Title	Course Description	Contact Hours
Ready to Read : Sesame Street	This workshop was developed by MSU's Early Childhood Institute as part of a statewide Ready to Read Project. It introduces early care and education providers to early language and literacy concepts and activities by using the Sesame Workshop instructional DVD, "Every Day is a Reading and Writing Day." The lessons and learning activities for three-year olds align with ELG Language Skills Competencies and have a strong focus on letter recognition.	2
Ready to Read: Between the Lions	This workshop was developed by MSU's Early Childhood Institute as part of a statewide Ready to Read Project. It introduces early care and education providers to early language and literacy concepts and activities by using the "Between the Lions" instructional DVD, "Get Wild About Reading!" The lessons and learning activities are more complex and especially designed for four-year old children. The activities align with ELG Language Skills Competencies and focus on phonological and phonemic awareness by helping children recognize and understand rhyming words.	2
Childcare As A Business	This intensive three-day workshop is designed for those who want to start their own childcare business, or are currently serving as directors in established childcare centers, and will cover topics such as how to get started; record keeping, determining prices to charge, marketing, licensure regulations, professionalism, room arrangement, food safety, meal/snack planning, discipline and communicating with parents.	16
Promotion Emotional Resilience	Emotional resilience is an important component of comprehensive emergency management in early childhood programs. Learn the basics of promoting emotional resilience in children ages 4-6 years and how promoting emotional resilience can help early care and education programs meet the Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines.	3
Toddler Art	Learn what appropriate art is for the youngest of children. It's a fun way to learn how to teach children about colors, science and math. Come ready to dig in and get your hands dirty!	2
Cooking Up Some Fun	Cooking, a natural part of every child's life, is an ideal way to teach children lifelong healthy eating habits and to promote their knowledge, skills, and creativity.	2
Awesome Ocean	Learn appropriate vocabulary to introduce the ocean to children, teach children to describe the ocean, identify at least five inhabitants of the ocean, and learn what fish eat and where they live.	2
Winter Science	Learn to plan seasonal science activities using everyday "kitchen science" items. Participants will make several items to use in the classroom.	2

Course Title	Course Description	Contact Hours
Creative Activities with Infants and Toddlers (Make-N-Take)	Participants will create developmentally appropriate toys for infants and toddlers from inexpensive items found around the house.	2
Spaces are Special Places	Participants will be actively engaged in identifying ways to effectively arrange early childhood classrooms in order to best meet the needs of the children.	2
Music Works Wonders	Gain valuable information to enable children to engage in music and movement activities depending on their interests, temperaments, and experiences. Learn how to help children imitate movements as a group and on their own, and how to provide spaces for listening, singing, moving to music, and playing instruments.	2
Going To School	This readiness campaign will aid parents and early care and education providers in understanding how to help preschool children succeed in school and prepare them for a lifetime of learning.	2
Creative Art: No More Coloring Sheets	Learn to help children develop fine-motor skills by experimenting with art materials that foster creativity, cultural sharing, cognitive development, language development, emotional release, and art appreciation. Learn about suggested age-appropriate art materials and setting up art stations for children.	2
Putting the Print in Print Rich	Participants will discover the importance of incorporating print and language into early childhood classrooms. Examples of materials to include in a print-rich environment and many activities to help create this environment will be provided.	2
Shovel and Sift, Splish and Splash	Learn the importance of sand and water play for toddlers and preschool age children, be able to set up sand and water centers in the classroom, learn materials and equipment needed for sand and water play, and determine how to provide variety in sand and water play.	2
Creative Curriculum for Preschool: How Children Develop and Learn	Learn what children are like developmentally as well as what makes each child unique. Understand the sequence of growth in social/emotional, physical, cognitive, and language development, and learn about each child's strengths, interests, needs, experiences, and learning styles.	2
Creative Curriculum for Preschool: The Learning Environment	Learn to create an environment where children will feel safe and comfortable and feel like they belong. Includes learning how to set up and maintain a classroom, establish structure for each day, and create a classroom community.	2
Creative Curriculum for Preschool: The Teacher's Role	Learn how knowledge of child development, individual children, and content are used to make decisions about when and how to respond to children to support and guide their learning.	2

Course Title	Course Description	Contact Hours
Creative Curriculum for Preschool: The Family's Role	Explore ways to create a welcoming environment where all families feel that they belong. Examine various ways to communicate with families and partner with them on children's learning. Explore issues surrounding misunderstandings that can occur between home and school.	2
Creative Curriculum for Preschool: Toys and Games	Learn how to observe children's use of toys and games to decide when and how to support learning. Learn which toys are safe, durable, and affordable and which toys are age-appropriate and do not reinforce stereotypes.	2
Creative Curriculum for Preschool: Sand and Water	Learn how sand and water contribute to children's learning and development, and examine the arrangement and set up of sand and water areas through the eyes of a child to determine if it addresses the children's needs.	2
Creative Curriculum for Preschool: Cooking	Learn how cooking contributes to children's learning and development. Examine ways the cooking area can be set up and organized so that children can explore, experiment, and create on their own, in small groups, or one on one with a teacher, parent volunteer, or another child.	2
Creative Curriculum for Preschool: Computers	Examine the value of computers in the early childhood classroom and look at how they can be used to support children's development and learning.	2
Creative Curriculum for Preschool: Outdoors	Consider the value of the outdoor area and ways it can be used to enrich the curriculum and support children's overall development and learning.	2
Your Young Child: What to do When Baby Cries	Participants will learn the reasons infant cry, signs and causes of infant colic, techniques for soothing fussy infants, and ways to help parents cope with the stress of crying.	2
Your Young Child: Helping Baby Sleep	Participants will learn how infant sleep patterns develop and change, how culture affects parenting and sleep arrangements, and effective ways to encourage infants and toddlers to self-soothe themselves to sleep.	2
Your Young Child: Learning to Say Good-bye	Participants will learn strategies that help children transition from home to the childcare center, comforting techniques, and how to assist parents in developing coping skills for dealing with the stress of leaving a child in the care of someone else.	2
Your Young Child: When All You Hear is "NO!"	Participants will learn strengths and weaknesses of parenting styles that affect children's behavior, three components of effective discipline for young children, and positive strategies for managing difficult behavior.	2
Your Young Child: Making Mealtimes Manage	Participants will learn common eating habits and why some children become "choosy" eaters, strategies to make mealtime easier, and how to work with parents of children who are concerned about their child's eating habits.	2

Course Title	Course Description	Contact Hours
Your Young Child: The Exploring Toddler	Participants will define developmentally appropriate toddler behavior, recognize benefits of safe exploration in the childcare center and home environment, and learn strategies for coping with children as they engage in their environment.	2



Discrimination based upon race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or veteran's status is a violation of federal and state law and MSU policy and will not be tolerated. Discrimination based upon sexual orientation or group affiliation is a violation of MSU policy and will not be tolerated.

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