



Early Intervention for Children with Special Needs

Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course provides an in-depth exploration of early intervention strategies for identifying and supporting young children with developmental delays and disabilities. Emphasizing the importance of early identification, we will examine key developmental milestones, screening tools, and collaboration with families and specialists to create individualized support plans. These modules will cover evidence-based practices for fostering cognitive, social-emotional, and physical development, as well as strategies for integrating interventions into natural learning environments. Participants will also explore resources that support early intervention services. By the end of the course, professionals will be equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to create positive outcomes for young children with special needs and their families.

This course enhances classroom teaching effectiveness and supports improved student outcomes by introducing new knowledge in early intervention strategies for identifying, assessing, and supporting young children with developmental delays and disabilities through evidence-based practices and family collaboration.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Describe the main components of early intervention for children from birth to age five and evaluate the long-term benefits, including improved developmental outcomes and reduced need for special education.
2. Analyze typical developmental milestones for children across domains (cognitive, physical, social-emotional, communication) and differentiate between typical developmental patterns from potential red flags to recognize signs of developmental delays or disabilities.
3. Analyze various developmental screening tools and assessments, evaluate the significance of early identification, and explain the roles of parents/caregivers and professionals in supporting children's developmental milestones through the assessment process.
4. Evaluate the components and process of creating individualized plans tailored to each child's specific needs and justify the use of evidence-based practices in crafting these plans.
5. Apply effective strategies for collaborating with families in identifying and supporting young children's developmental needs.



6. Analyze evidence-based practices to understand interventions that align with a child's strengths, interests, daily routines, and family values while considering factors that ensure cultural responsiveness.
7. Understand why early childhood interventions are most effective when delivered in a child's natural environment (home, school, community) and demonstrate strategies for embedding developmental support into everyday routines and activities while fostering meaningful relationships with children and families.
8. Analyze effective methods for monitoring young children's developmental progress through observation and data collection and understand data-informed decision-making for adjusting individualized support plans, ensuring that interventions remain responsive to each child's evolving needs.

Modules

- Module 1: Understanding Early Intervention in Special Education and its Evidence-Based Impact, Quiz 1
- Module 2: Understanding Developmental Milestones, Quiz 2
- Module 3: Developmental Monitoring, Screening, and Assessment, Quiz 3
- Module 4: Understanding Individualized Plans for Young Children with Developmental Delays or Disabilities, Quiz 4
- Module 5: Collaborating with Families to Identify and Support Young Children's Needs, Quiz 5
- Module 6: Implementing Effective Interventions, Quiz 6
- Module 7: Implementing Support Plans in Everyday Environments and Using Children's Interests with Supportive Adult Connections, Quiz 7
- Module 8: Monitoring and Evaluating Progress in Early Childhood Intervention, Quiz 8

Grading

Each quiz must be passed at an 80% or higher (three attempts allowed).

Format

This is a self-paced, asynchronous (no required live meetings) course. Throughout the PD course, you will find it helpful to take notes along the way to assist with the quizzes. Within each module, you will find reflection assessments that are not graded but will help in your journey through the course. There is an interactive forum in the course to help you connect with peers and instructors, share ideas, and collaborate on best practices throughout your learning journey.