

Child Development and Parenting Semester A

Course Overview

This one-semester course is intended to help you familiarize yourself with various aspects of child development and parenting. This course covers the fundamental concepts of parenting and the roles and responsibilities of parents. It also covers essential communication skills related to parent-child interaction. In addition, the course covers important workplace qualities and skills, such as positive work ethics, integrity, and time and resource management. It also covers technology and recent trends in parenting.

Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Compare parenting skills, styles, and trends and their impacts on child development.
- Analyze family planning strategies and parental responsibilities.
- Examine good work habits, skills, ethics, and policies related to careers in the childcare industry.
- Demonstrate effective communication skills and strategies.
- Inspect laws, programs, and organizations centered around child welfare.

General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Complete basic operations with word-processing software, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email and discussion boards.

For a complete list of the general skills required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.

Credit Value

Child Development and Parenting is a 0.5-credit course.

Course Materials

- notebook
- computer with an Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft Excel or equivalent
- Microsoft PowerPoint or equivalent

Course Pacing Guide

This course description and pacing guide is intended to help you stay on schedule with your work. Note that your course teacher may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

As part of this course, every student has to join a vocational youth organization related to family and child care, and be an active participant in all events and projects of the organization. As a member of a student organization, you should do the following:

- Participate in all the activities of the vocational youth organization you choose to join
- Keep a record of your participation in meetings, programs, and projects
- Take notes about the purposes and functions of the organization
- Identify the benefits and responsibilities of membership in the youth organization
- Evaluate your personal growth through participation in the youth organization

At the end of this course (as part of Unit Activity 3), you will create and submit a slide presentation describing the points above.

Course Components and Grading Rubric

The table gives a breakdown of the weight for each component in the course. Weight represents the percentage of the total score coming from each activity.

Course Components	Count	Weight
Pretest. <i>Pretests are optional assessments, typically designed for credit recovery use. If a student shows mastery of a lesson's objective, the student may be automatically exempted from that lesson in the upcoming unit. Typically, teachers do not choose to employ exemptive pretests for first-time credit courses. Pretests are not included as a component of the student's final grade.</i>	3	0%
Module. <i>Each module in this course contains an interactive tutorial and an associated mastery test. Tutorials may include one or more Lesson Activities that constitute tasks associated with the tutorial. The module score comes from a student's score on the mastery test.</i>	12	20%
Discussion. <i>Online discussions allow for higher-order thinking about terminal objectives. An online threaded discussion mirrors the educational experience of a classroom discussion. Teachers can initiate a discussion by asking a complex, open-ended question. Students can engage in the discussion by responding both to the question and to the thoughts of others. Each unit in a course has one predefined discussion topic; teachers may add more discussion topics.</i>	3	20%
Unit Activity. <i>Unit Activities are at the end a unit and constitute one or more small tasks. Their purpose is to deepen understanding of key unit concepts and tie them together. Each Unit Activity includes a simple rubric. The teacher versions include both a rubric and modeled sample answers. Unit Activities are teacher graded.</i>	3	20%
Posttest. <i>The posttest appears at the end of the unit and mirrors the pretest in structure, content, and complexity.</i>	3	20%
End of Semester Test. <i>The end of semester test (EOS) appears at the end of the course. Students are delivered a few items from every tutorial in the course in order to assess the major course objectives.</i>	1	20%
Total	25	100%

*Teachers may manually adjust these weights if desired, per district grading requirements.

Unit 1: Parenting Basics

Summary

In this unit, you will describe parenting goals and analyze the myths and realities of parenting. You will also describe the roles and responsibilities of a parent and compare different parenting styles. Additionally, you will describe positive parenting skills, list guidelines for effectively disciplining and guiding a child, and describe the impact of parenting styles on a child. Finally, you will describe ethics and good work habits.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
1 day: 1	Syllabus and Plato Student Orientation <i>Review the Plato Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.</i>	Course Orientation
6 days: 2–7	Basics of Parenting <i>Identify parenting goals and describe the myths, realities, and preparations needed for parenting.</i>	Lesson
6 days: 8–13	Roles and Responsibilities of Parents <i>Name the roles and responsibilities of a parent and discuss different parenting styles.</i>	Lesson
6 days: 14–19	Positive Parenting Skills <i>Identify positive parenting skills, list guidelines for effectively disciplining and guiding a child, and describe the impact of parenting styles on a child.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 20–24	Positive Work Ethics <i>Recognize the importance of positive work ethics and describe good work habits.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 25	Space Jumble	Game
4 days: 26–29	Unit Activity/ Threaded Discussion—Unit 1 <i>Estimate the costs of raising children in their city or town.</i>	Unit Activity
1 day: 30	Posttest—Unit 1	Assessment

Unit 2: Communication and Child Care

Summary

In this unit, you will explain how communication between a parent and child is important. You will also describe the role of the family in effective child care. In addition, you will describe the importance of communication skills such as reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
6 days: 31–36	Parent Child Communication <i>Recognize positive and negative communication patterns good parent-child communication and identify ways to improve it.</i>	Lesson
6 days: 37–42	Family and Child Care <i>Identify and describe the role and responsibilities of the family in effective childcare.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 43–47	Reading and Writing <i>Practice effective reading and writing skills and identify common terms in the childcare profession.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 48–52	Speaking and Listening <i>Identify effective speaking and listening skills and techniques and describe the effects of poor communication.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 53	Space Jumble	Game
4 days: 54–57	Unit Activity/Threaded Discussion—Unit 2 <i>Conduct research on factors that affect child development and parenting; describe strategies that parents, educators, communities, and the government can use to help prevent teen pregnancies and help teen parents deal with pregnancies.</i>	Unit Activity
1 day: 58	Posttest—Unit 2	Assessment

Unit 3: Managing Time, Resources, and Technology

Summary

In this unit, you will describe how to set goals and manage time and resources effectively. You will also identify various aspects of personal integrity and describe laws and organizational policies that ensure integrity and safety at the workplace. Additionally, you will identify current parenting trends and describe various types of technology that parents can use. Finally, you will describe the parenting styles of different cultures and explain strategies for better relationships that parents and children can use in multicultural families and societies.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
6 days: 59–64	Time, Task, Resource Management <i>List time, task, and resource management skills and explain how to organize and implement a productive plan of work.</i>	Lesson
6 days: 65–70	Integrity <i>Describe labor laws and identify integrity attributes outlined by many workplace policies and laws.</i>	Lesson
6 days: 71–76	Technology and Recent Trends in Parenting <i>Recall current parenting trends, list considerations when hiring a nanny, and describe various types of technology beneficial to parents.</i>	Lesson
6 days: 77–82	Diversity in Family and Society <i>Identify parenting styles of different cultures and explain strategies for better relationships that parents and children can use in multicultural families and societies.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 83	Para Jumble	Game
4 days: 84–87	Unit Activity/Threaded Discussion—Unit 3 <i>Research and create a slide presentation based on a youth organization of your choice.</i>	Unit Activity
1 day: 88	Posttest—Unit 3	Assessment
1 day: 89	Semester Review	
1 day: 90	End-of-Semester Test	Assessment

Course Map

You will achieve course level objectives by completing each lesson’s instruction, assignments, and assessments. For a detailed look at how the materials meet these objectives, review the [course map for Semester A](#).