

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

**ECHD 290 Early Childhood Education Co-Operative**

**I. Basic Course Information**

A. Course Number and Title: ECHD 290 Early Childhood Education Co-Operative

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Fall                      Year: 2023

**D. Effective Term: Fall 2024**

E. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences, Social Work & Education

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3                      Lecture: 0  
   Laboratory:  
   Worksite: 150 hours

H. Prerequisites/Co-requisites: None

I. Additional Fees: None

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair at time of approval:

Department Chair: Dr. Isabel Gutierrez-Bergman ([Isabel.Gutierrez@raritanval.edu](mailto:Isabel.Gutierrez@raritanval.edu))

Division Dean: Dr. Patrice Marks ([patrice.marks@raritanval.edu](mailto:patrice.marks@raritanval.edu))

**II. Catalog Description**

**This course does not have pre- or co-requisites.**

Cooperative Education is the integration of classroom study with specific planned periods of learning through employment to gain practical experience. The course utilizes a seminar approach with performance based activities and individual student objectives which are job related and employer evaluated.

### **III. Statement of Course Need**

- A. This course is a requirement in the Early Childhood AAS Degree Program, Early Childhood Education Certificate Program, and Early Childhood STEM Certificate Program
- B. This course may transfer as an early childhood program elective.
- C. This course is not designed for transfer.

### **IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum**

- A. Free Elective (This applies automatically to all college level credit courses in the College.)
- B. This course meets a program requirement for the Early Childhood AAS Degree Program, Early Childhood Education Certificate Program, and Early Childhood STEM Certificate Program.
- C. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, [www.njtransfer.org](http://www.njtransfer.org); b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

### **V. Outline of Course Content**

- A. Power, Process, and Ethics of Observation
  - 1. Power of Observation
  - 2. Ethics of Observation
- B. Methods of Observation
  - 1. Anecdotal records
  - 2. Running records
  - 3. Checklists and rating scales
  - 4. Documentation and reporting
- C. Using Observation
  - 1. Observing behavior
  - 2. Observational approaches to motor and cognitive development
  - 3. Observation as a reflective practitioner

### **VI. A. Course Learning Outcomes:**

**At the completion of the course, students will be able to:**

- 1. Determine the nature and extent of the information needed. (GE IL)
- 2. Identify and critically evaluate information. (GE 1 \*)
- 3. Produce accurate observational reports. (GE 1, 4)

(\*indicates critical thinking)

## **B. Assessment Instruments**

1. observations
2. demonstrations/lessons
3. essays
4. journals
5. portfolios

## **VII. Grade Determinants**

- A. essays
- B. projects
- C. interviews
- D. observations

Primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. seminar/discussion
- B. 150 hours in the field (Service Learning)
- C. computer-assisted instruction
- D. guided study groups

## **VIII. Texts and Materials**

- A. Text  
Marion, M. (current ed.). *Using Observation in Early Childhood Education*.  
Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Merrill Prentice Hall.
- B. interviews
- C. journals
- D. student writing

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

## **IX. Resources**

N/A

## **X. Honors Options [if relevant]**

N/A