

CHILD DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION

Child Development is the multifaceted study of children’s continuing growth and discovery from birth through adolescence. Child Development involves the biological, psychological and emotional changes that occur in children as they progress from dependency to increasing autonomy. Early Care and Education (ECE) primarily focuses on young children birth through age 8.

Individuals working in the field of Child Development may take on direct or indirect roles. Many ECE professionals work directly with children and families by planning and implementing instruction and/or intervention based on observation and assessment of children’s cognitive, social-emotional, and physical competencies. Other ECE professionals work indirectly to influence children’s development by administering programs, providing health services, conducting research, initiating legislation, developing products, and more.

The Mt. SAC Child Development & Education Program offers an excellent foundation in the core competencies essential to a career working in the ECE field. The multiple certificate programs provide a basis for entry into the workforce while the degrees establish a pathway to transfer to a university to complete a bachelor’s degree.



There are three strands that a student may pursue: Child Development Certificates, degrees in Child Development or Education, and California Child Development Permits. Nested certificates build upon one another as a student progresses through the program.

Child Development -Level I	12 units
Child Development -Level II	19 units
Child Development -Level III	28 units
Children’s Program Certificate: Teaching	39 units
Infant/Toddler Development	30 units
Child Development – Early Intervention and Inclusion	37 units
School Age Child - Specialization	31-33 units
Child Development - Administration	43 units
Child Development Associate in Science Degree	28 units
Early Childhood Education Associate in Science – Transfer Degree	24 units
Educational Paraprofessional Associate in Science Degree	23 units

Go to www.mtsac.edu/childdevelopment/ for specific requirements for each certificate and degree. For general descriptions of courses in the current catalog, go to <http://catalog.mtsac.edu/programs/coursesaz/chld/>.

MT. SAC CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER - A “LIVING LABORATORY”

The Mt. SAC Child Development Center (CDC) plays an integral role in training students with child observation, practicum and field work experiences. The CDC functions as a dynamic, quality early childhood environment serving the needs of local children and families while also operating as a campus based laboratory for students. We strive to be a model of exemplary practice as we prepare future practitioners with a broad knowledge of child development theory, observation and assessment, and hands-on application (interactive activities with children), while implementing national and state standards for quality infant, toddler, and preschool programs.



The CDC is a living laboratory of child development where the on-going life of the classroom includes student observers, and practicum and fieldwork students interacting directly with children and CDC staff members. Student teachers develop the knowledge, skills and dispositions essential for success in the ECE field.

We value observation and documentation as an essential method for gaining a broad understanding of children’s development. Effective teaching of young children begins with thoughtful, objective observation and documentation of each child’s unique qualities, strengths, characteristics, and interests. Students witness how a quality program for infants, toddlers, and preschooler operates, as well as observe children to gather information for the Child Development course assignments. Students gain skills in conducting systematic observations, interpreting those observations, and reflecting on their significance. Because spontaneous play is a significant indicator of children’s development, student observers have many opportunities to observe children in playful situations as well as more formal learning contexts.



To learn more about Child Development & Education, go to www.mtsac.edu/childdevelopment/. CDE Faculty Offices are located in Building 73 in the Child Development Complex.

