



ECE 322.01B & .71B
Family & Community Connections in Early Childhood
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Karen Walker

Office Location: Sowers Education South 227

Office Hours: by appointment

Office Phone: (903)886-5537

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Karen.Walker@etamu.edu

Communication Response Time: Please allow 24 business hours for a response time.

COURSE INFORMATION

Required text: Laff, R., & Ruiz, W. (2019). *Child, Family, and Community*. College of the Canyons.

This is an Open Educational Resource available at no cost to students at:

<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/800>

Other Required Reading:

- [Incorporating Knowledge from Children's Homes and Communities: A Home-to-School Approach for Teaching STEM in Preschool](#)
- [Advancing Equity in Early Childhood Position Statement](#)

ECE 322 - Family and Community Partnerships in Early Childhood Education

Course Description

This course explores best practices in building successful early childhood education programs through partnerships with children's families and communities. Students will learn about, understand the importance, and complex characteristics of children's families and communities. Students will examine the role of home environments in children's development to support and engage families through respectful, reciprocal relationships that support and empower families. and that involves all families in their children's development and learning. Students will examine community resources that support young children's learning and development and to support children's families and learn how to build connections between early learning settings, schools, and community organizations and agencies.

Standards and Framework Items Addressed by the course as a whole: Teacher Preparation

Standards: 4.D.iv, 6.C.i-ii; **PPR Standards:** 1.18k, 4.1k-4.2k, 4.1s-4.4s; **EC: PK-3 Test Framework:** I.003.A-C, III.007A-F; **PPR Test Framework:** IV.011.A-F

Performance Assessment Description

In groups of 3 or 4, students will collaboratively plan and create a STEAM kit that integrates a fable or folktale (culturally relevant) and a community asset. Additionally, the students will plan the activity using materials students would have access to in or near their home. Students will first develop their context for learning to represent an authentic school setting through data and analysis of chosen prekindergarten through third grade in a specific Texas school and district to align the STEAM kit with culturally responsive, developmentally appropriate practices that acknowledge and respect diversity

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(e.g., cultural, economic, linguistic) and support inclusion. Through successful planning of the STEAM kit, students will demonstrate knowledge of how to create meaningful, respectful, and reciprocal relationships for families and how to use family-centered strategies to promote effective, ongoing communication and involvement with families to support young children's learning and social skills and emotional development.

Curriculum Standard	Test Framework - Domain & Competency	Performance Assessment for Mastery
Teacher Preparation Standards: 4.D.iv PPR Standards: 1.18k, 4.1k, 4.2k, 4.1s, 4.2s, 4.3s, 4.4s	EC:PK-3 Test Framework: I.003.A, I.003.B, I.003.C, III.007.A, III.007.B, III.007.C, III.007.E, III.007.F PPR Test Framework: IV.011.A, IV.011.B, IV.011.C, IV.011.D, IV.011.E, IV.011.F	Family Engagement: Culturally Responsive STEAM Kits

Student Learning Outcomes

- Analyze the Role of Families and Communities in Early Childhood Development:** Students will create a graphic or table to depict the complex characteristics of children's families and communities and their impact on early learning and development.
- Apply Strategies for Building Respectful, Reciprocal Family Partnerships:** Students will design and implement family-centered strategies that foster effective, ongoing communication and engagement with diverse families to support children's learning and development.
- Integrate Culturally Responsive Practices into Early Learning:** Students will plan a culturally responsive STEAM kit that aligns with a community asset and an interactive read-aloud text.
- Utilize Community Resources to Support Family Engagement:** Students will identify and create a pamphlet of community assets that support family involvement in early childhood.
- Synthesize Learning into a Professional Group Presentation:** Students will present a final multimedia presentation demonstrating their understanding of family engagement and community.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Taking an online course requires general computer literacy. All work in this course must be completed and submitted through myLeo Online (D2L), our campus Learning Management System. You must have consistent and reliable access to a computer and the Internet. You must be able to use Leomail, organize and save electronic files, download and upload documents, locate information with a browser, and generate content using general word processing programs.

Instructional Methods

This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the outcomes/objectives for the course and instructional units/modules. Each week you will work on

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various combinations of assignments, activities, discussions, readings, research, quizzes, and/or exams.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

The ABCs of Student Responsibility:

- Actively participate in class and the learning process.
- Be organized and prepared.
- Communicate with me about questions or concerns.

GRADING

All assignments and examinations are due as indicated on the course calendar. Written work should follow the guidelines published in the APA Manual (7th ed.) for citations, references, and manuscript style using 1" margins, double spaced, and 12-point font.

Work submitted late will be subject to a **10% deduction per day**. Ten days after the due date a grade of '0' will be entered in the Grade Center.

Unless otherwise stated, grading will be completed within one week of the due date.

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale based on 1000 points:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Assessments

PBA	Family Engagement: Culturally Responsive STEAM Kits ECE 322 PBA
	Students will plan and create a STEAM kit that integrates a fable or folktale (culturally relevant) and a community asset. Additionally, the students will plan the activity using materials students would have access to in or near their home. Students will first develop their context for learning to represent an authentic school setting through data and analysis of chosen prekindergarten through third grade in a specific Texas school and district to align the STEAM kit with culturally responsive, developmentally appropriate practices that acknowledge and respect diversity (e.g., cultural, economic, linguistic) and support inclusion. Through successful planning of the STEAM kit, students will demonstrate knowledge of how to create meaningful, respectful, and reciprocal relationships for families and how to use family-centered strategies to promote effective, ongoing communication and involvement with families to support young children's learning and social skills and emotional development.
Alignment	Teacher Preparation Standards: 4.D.iv, 6.C.i-ii PPR Standards: 1.18k, 4.1k-4.2k, 4.1s-4.4s

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EC: PK-3 Test Framework: I.003.A-C, III.007A-F

PPR Test Framework: IV.011.A-F

19 TAC §228.30(d)(4)

- Teacher Standards Organization, Expectations, Procedures & Professional Leadership

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University (ETAMU) have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at ETAMU are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for

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reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

ETAMU will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M University Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counseling-center

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.

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COURSE CALENDAR

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