



ECE 536.01W

Literacy Development in the Early Years

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer II 2026

Instructor Information

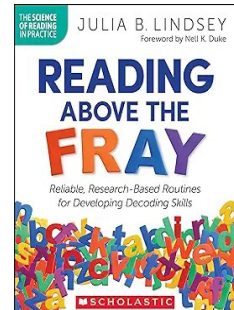
Instructor: Karen Walker, Ed.D.

Office Hours: By appointment via phone or video conference

University Email Address: Karen.Walker@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: email

Communication Response Time: within 48 hours



COURSE INFORMATION

Required Text

Lindsey, J. B. (2022). *Reading above the fray: Reliable, research-based routines for developing*

decoding skills. Scholastic. ISBN-13: 978-1338828726 ISBN-10: 133882872X

Course Description

Study of the acquisition and development of language in the early childhood years with emphasis on the content, methods and theory, appropriate for extending learnings in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, Grades 1, 2, and 3.

Student Learning Outcomes

- To identify and explain the various theories of language acquisition and development and to understand factors which influence language development.
- To identify the major components of an integrated language arts program and understand the rationale for various methods used in developing learning experiences for each component.
- To evaluate various techniques of nurturing children's listening abilities and to promote the development of oral language.
- To identify criteria for selecting quality literature for young children and to examine various methods of using literature to enhance communication skills
- To compare and contrast various approaches to literacy development (reading and writing) in young children.
- To identify instructional resources for teaching communication skills.

Texas Education Agency (TEA) Teacher Standards

Early Childhood Teacher Competencies

- Competency 5 Receptive language: The early childhood teacher understands the development of young children's receptive language development and knows how to provide experiential learning activities that enhance receptive language

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- and complement learning in other areas.
- Competency 6 Expressive language: The early childhood teacher understands expressive language development in young children and knows how to provide a classroom environment that encourages young children to use oral language to express needs, feelings, and ideas.
 - Competency 7 Emergent literacy: The early childhood teacher understands processes related to emergent literacy and can use understanding to develop a classroom culture that fosters a positive disposition toward literacy and encourages the emergence of literacy.
 - Competency 8 Language development in native speakers of other languages: The early childhood teacher understands how having a home language other than standard English affects English language development and knows how to use young children's diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds to facilitate their English language development, as well as to enhance all children's awareness of the diversity of languages and cultures.
 - Competency 15 Interdisciplinary connections/instruction: The early childhood teacher understands interrelationships among the content areas, recognizes skills and concept that may be applied across the curriculum, and can use this knowledge to enhance children's thinking and their ability to understand the world.
 - Competency 20 Factors affecting development: The early childhood teacher understands how specific factors may affect individuals in one or more developmental domains and can provide learning experiences and environments that respond to the individual needs of all children.
 - Competency 21 Assessment: The early childhood teacher understands how to use a variety of assessment strategies to monitor young children's progress in achieving outcomes and to plan learning activities in all domains.
 - Competency 23 Assessment: The early childhood teacher understands how to use developmentally appropriate group management strategies to provide an atmosphere that enhances learning.
 - Competency 25 Materials and resource: The early childhood teacher understands how various types of materials and resources, including current technology, can be used in early childhood classrooms to support learning in all domains for all children.

Course Requirements/Assignments

- Weekly Textbook Chapter Reflections/Discussions
- Early Childhood Literacy Issue/Topic Exploration Assignment
- ECE Literacy Instructional Strategy Webinar Creation Assignment
- ECE Literacy Curriculum Program Evaluation Assignment

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

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

Quizzes are designed as a study guide for each chapter. Post-quiz may be retaken to achieve the grade desired by the students.

Application exercises are designed for you to apply the information that has been mastered in the quizzes. Students are encouraged to review the application exercises at the beginning of the semester. Several exercises require observations in the community

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.

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

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Assignments 60%

Discussions 20%

Quizzes. 20%

TOTAL 100%

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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

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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>

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 East Texas A&M University 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 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/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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

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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.

ETAMU 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.

ECE 536 COURSE CALENDAR

Please refer to D2L and course announcements for any changes that may occur. Assignments are due by 11:59pm on the assigned due date.

Module	Topic	Reading Above the Fray	Assignments
1	Foundational Skills and Oral Language Development	Ch 1, 2, 3	Assignment #1 Early Literacy TED Talk Introduction Discussion Initial Post Due by 7/8 Peer Response Post Due by 7/12 Assignment #2 Observing, Implementing, and Reflecting on Dialogic Reading Due: 7/12
2	Print & Phonemic Awareness and Alphabetic Knowledge	Ch 4, 5, 6	Assignment #3 Phonological Awareness Screener (PAST) Assignment Due: 7/19
3	Phonics, Morphology, and Decoding	Ch 4, 8, 9	Assignment #4 Decodable Reading Observation and Administration Assignment Due: 7/26
4	Fluency and ECE Literacy Component Synthesis	Ch 10	Assignment #5 Early Childhood Literacy Article Synthesis and Critique (FINAL) Due: 8/6

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