

# Watson College of Education

## Education of Young Children Program Goals and Objectives

The goal of the Education of Young Children program at UNCW is to assist in providing an appropriate education of young children (birth through kindergarten) through the preparation of teachers who are well educated and professionally competent. The conceptual framework for the education of young children program is one which is common to all teacher education programs at UNCW: Watson College of Education develops highly competent and effective professionals to serve in educational leadership roles.

Upon completion of the undergraduate Education of Young Children program (EYC), the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the typical and atypical course of development, including the underlying processes and prominent characteristics, of children from birth through kindergarten.
2. Delineate major philosophical, historical, and legal bases and characteristics of the field of early childhood education, including special education.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the trends, issues, and research in early intervention and early childhood education.
4. Develop skill in assessment of children's development (typical and atypical), including varied techniques for observing, recording, and analyzing for the purpose of providing for individual needs and guiding young children appropriately.
5. Acquire knowledge and skill in creating and adapting learning environments which are developmentally appropriate (including methods for sensorimotor, cognitive, adaptive, language/communication, social, aesthetic, emotional and physical development) for young children with a wide range of learning and maturational needs.
6. Demonstrate knowledge for providing individual and group learning environments for children with and without disabilities through a variety of formats including play, environmental routines, parent-mediated activities, and inquiry strategies.
7. Demonstrate knowledge and skill in fostering self-regulation, self-control, problem-solving, and independence in children.
8. Demonstrate knowledge of health-related issues in early childhood settings, interpret medical histories and select appropriate health appraisal procedures to guide parents and make referrals.
9. Demonstrate sensitivity and respect for differences in families, view parents as partners in the education process, and establish collaborative relationships with them.
10. Acquire knowledge of the interdisciplinary approach for meeting the needs of young children by learning about relevant legislation, and interagency roles and collaboration.
11. Demonstrate the ability to create environments and engage in interactions that are sensitive to diversity (e.g., cultural, linguistic, geographic, ethnic, and socioeconomic), as well as promoting an anti-bias perspective.
12. Implement appropriate technologies to facilitate learning.
13. Establish a pattern of reflective learning and inquiry leading towards confidence, professionalism, and effectiveness in the role of educator of young children.