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UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Lastinger Learning

Lastinger Learning Early Childhood System
Online Courses: Fall Term 2026
Course Offerings FAQ

Thank you for your interest in our online courses! Please refer to the course descriptions below before enrolling.
Click the links to learn more about:

Infant Toddler Courses-English	Infant Toddler Courses-Spanish
Infant Toddler Social-Emotional Development (ITSE)	Fomentando el Desarrollo Socioemocional Saludable En Los Bebés Y Niños Pequeños (ITSES)
Engaging Families of Infants and Toddlers (ITFE)	Participación Familiar: Involucrando a las Familias de Bebés y Niños Pequeños (ITFES)
Infant Toddler Health, Safety, and Nutrition (ITHSN)	Salud, Seguridad y Nutrición para Bebés y Niños Pequeños (ITHSNS)
Language Development for Infants and Toddlers*	
Preschool Courses-English	**Preschool Courses-Spanish**
Guiding Preschool Behavior and Building Classroom Community (PGB)	Pautas De Comportamiento Y Creación De Comunidad En El Ámbito Preescolar (PGBS)
Instructional Support in Preschool: Quality of Feedback (PQF)	Apoyo Instructivo en el Preescolar: Calidad de los Comentarios (PQFS)
Getting Organized for Learning in Preschool (ACT1)	
Understanding and Promoting the Development and Learning of Young Dual Language Learners in Preschool (DLL1)	
Why Ask Why? STEAM in Preschool Learning Environments (STEAM)	

Preschool Language Development*	Desarrollo del Lenguaje en Niños Preescolares*
The Building Blocks of Preschool Literacy*	
Supporting Learning in Preschool Classrooms (SLP)	

These courses are no longer part of the Emergent Micro-Credential and will no longer count towards completion of that program.

Estos cursos ya no forman parte de la microcredencial «Emergent» y ya no se tendrán en cuenta para la finalización de dicho programa.

Getting Organized for Learning in Preschool (ACT1)

This is the first course in a series of three created to help you organize, plan, and refine your practice with preschool children. In this course (ACT1), you will learn to create effective learning environments, develop schedules, and promote social-emotional development. In addition, you will gain an understanding of literacy and mathematical development in preschool children.

At the end of this course, the candidate will be able to:

- Set up a learning environment that provides ample opportunities for children to engage in meaningful learning experiences throughout the day
- Ensure a safe and predictable environment for children by creating schedules, establishing routines, and planning for transitions
- Support children's social and emotional learning by implementing developmentally appropriate rules and routines.
- Support oral language development through engaging interactions with children that include asking open-ended questions and extending children's responses
- Implement a variety of engaging activities to advance phonological awareness and alphabet knowledge
- Plan activities to support mathematical thinking through number sense

These strategies are job-embedded and will need to be implemented with the preschoolers in your setting.

Understanding and Promoting the Development and Learning of Young Dual Language Learners in Preschool (DLL1)

In Understanding and Promoting the Development and Learning of Young Dual Language Learners in Preschool, you'll learn about the major stages of learning the English language and use that information to help your children make the necessary adjustments needed when learning more than one language. In each cycle of this course, we will explore specific evidence-based strategies to help you engage dual language learners in your centers or family child care homes.

Learning Outcomes

- Identify the major stages of second language acquisition for preschool children who are learning English
- Know and understand how children can learn more than one language during the early childhood years and how this positively influences brain development
- Understand the importance of supporting the home language of dual language learners and learn classroom strategies to support home language maintenance
- Demonstrate knowledge of specific instructional strategies that will help dual language learners acquire English language skills
- Learn interactive storybook reading strategies that are appropriate for young dual language learners

These strategies are job-embedded and will need to be implemented with the dual language learners in your setting.

Why Ask Why? STEAM in Preschool Learning Environments (STEAM)

STEAM learning (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) occurs instinctively for young children every day as they play and investigate their surroundings. Today, almost 100% of jobs require the ability to think critically and listen actively, and 70% of jobs require math knowledge and skills. Research shows that skills developed through science, technology, engineering, art, and math education are necessary for employment in all fields. In Why Ask Why? STEAM in Preschool Learning Environments, we will explore why and how preschool educators should encourage young children to ask inquiry-based questions to support STEAM education. We'll investigate each of the STEAM content areas, and we'll also discuss researched-based practices for incorporating this content into early learning environments.

Learning Outcomes

- Support the development of scientific thinking in preschoolers through inquiry, exploration, and the use of the scientific method.
- Improve young children's cognitive development through the use of digital technology.
- Guide young children in using math, science, and technology to problem solve using the Engineering Design Process.
- Use questions to help guide children through problem-solving experiences.
- Encourage young children to innovate and solve problems creatively through early art experiences.
- Create a learning environment that supports early math skill development.
- Communicate the importance of STEAM and family engagement.
- Weave STEAM concepts into daily routines and learning experiences.

These strategies are job-embedded and will need to be implemented with the preschool children in your program.

Supporting Learning in Preschool Classrooms (SLP)

In this course, Supporting Learning in Preschool Classrooms, we will explore strategies that support high-quality interactions in preschool classrooms that allow children to think deeply and creatively, expand their knowledge, and improve their language development.

This course is designed to be fully self-guided, with no required assignment submissions. We encourage you to engage fully with the course timeline by reviewing the content, practicing the strategies, completing the Try It Out activities, and taking time for reflection. Mastery in the course is determined by earning an 80% or better score on the Post-Knowledge Assessment.

The Student Will:

- Identify and describe teaching strategies that support development of concepts, incorporate quality feedback and promote language development.
- Identify opportunities within daily interactions to implement and practice these strategies.
- Incorporate the course strategies within lesson planning for the children in your preschool classroom in support of Kindergarten readiness.

Engaging Families of Infants and Toddlers (ITFE)

In this course, you will learn how to foster a welcoming environment for families. The course addresses topics such as building trusting relationships, promoting child learning at home, and facilitating healthy transitions. In addition, you will gain information on community resources.

Learning Outcomes:

- Develop a plan that includes sharing program information and asking open-ended questions to welcome new families into the program
- Implement a ten-step approach to facilitating discussions with a parent
- Write a plan that includes two strategies to engage families as teachers
- Plan for home visits by identifying purposes, barriers, and steps for addressing barriers
- Identify the steps to plan for an activity or event where families can connect with other families or the community
- Complete a transition profile on one child in the program

These strategies are job-embedded and will need to be implemented with the infants and toddlers in your setting.

Participación Familiar: Involucrando a las Familias de Bebés y Niños Pequeños (ITFES)

En este curso, aprenderá a fomentar un ambiente acogedor para las familias. El curso aborda temas como establecer relaciones de confianza, promover el aprendizaje de los niños en el hogar y facilitar transiciones de manera saludable. Además, obtendrá información sobre recursos comunitarios.

Resultados de aprendizaje:

- Desarrollar un plan que incluya compartir información del programa y hacer preguntas abiertas para dar la bienvenida a las nuevas familias al programa.
- Implementar un enfoque de diez pasos para facilitar conversaciones con un padre/madre.
- Escribir un plan que incluya dos estrategias para involucrar a las familias como maestras de sus niños.
- Planificar visitas domiciliarias que identifiquen los propósitos de esas visitas, los obstáculos y los pasos para afrontar dichos obstáculos.
- Identificar los pasos en un plan para una actividad o evento que permita a las familias conectarse con otras familias o con la comunidad.
- Completar un perfil de transición sobre un niño de su programa.

Estas estrategias están integradas en el trabajo y deberán implementarse con los bebés y niños pequeños en su entorno.

Infant Toddler Social-Emotional Development (ITSE)

Social-emotional development is when infants and toddlers start to experience and express their feelings in socially appropriate ways. They form close and secure adult and peer relationships and explore and learn from their environment. In this course, you'll discover strategies that will help foster healthy social-emotional development in infants and toddlers.

At the end of this course, the candidate will be able to:

- Implement strategies that build partnerships with parents
- Design a plan that creates an attachment relationship with a young infant
- Revise drop-off procedures to better support parents of mobile infants and toddlers in forming attachments
- Prepare a plan that identifies social-emotional learning goals to support building an attachment relationship with a child with special needs
- Identify self-care and self-calming strategies to use during stressful situations with infants and toddlers
- Promote self-regulation in mobile infants and toddlers. Describe and practice the Respect, Reflect, and Respond strategy to promote self-regulation in infants and toddlers
- Identify temperament traits and use them to inform a plan that includes strategies for goodness of fit to support a child's learning goals

These strategies are job-embedded and will need to be implemented with the infants and toddlers in your setting.

Fomentando el Desarrollo Socioemocional Saludable En Los Bebés Y Niños Pequeños (ITSES)

El desarrollo socioemocional es cuando los bebés y los niños pequeños empiezan a experimentar a expresar sus emociones en maneras socialmente apropiadas. Ellos comienzan a formar relaciones estrechas y seguras con sus compañeros y padres, y también empiezan a aprender a medida que exploran su entorno. En este curso usted aprenderá sobre las siguientes estrategias que ayudan a fomentar un desarrollo socioemocional saludable en los bebés y niños pequeños.

Al finalizar este curso, el candidato podrá:

- Identificar y aplicar estrategias que creen asociaciones con los padres.
- Diseñar un plan que cree una relación de apego con un bebé.
- Analizar y revisar los procedimientos de entrega para ayudar mejor a los padres de bebés y niños pequeños que se desplazan en la formación de vínculos.
- Preparar un plan que identifique los objetivos de aprendizaje socioemocional que apoyarán la creación de una relación de apego con un niño con necesidades especiales.
- Identificar estrategias de autocuidado y autocalma para utilizar durante situaciones estresantes con bebés y niños pequeños.
- Promover la autorregulación en bebés y niños pequeños que se desplazan. Describir y practicar la estrategia Respetar, Reflexionar y Responder para promover la autorregulación en bebés y niños pequeños.
- Identificar los rasgos del temperamento y utilizarlos para elaborar un plan que incluya estrategias de adecuación para apoyar los objetivos de aprendizaje del niño.

Estas estrategias están integradas en el trabajo y deberán implementarse con los bebés y niños pequeños en su entorno.

Infant Toddler Health, Safety, and Nutrition (ITHSN)

Providing a safe and healthy environment for very young children is extremely important. This course will specifically address how health, safety, and nutrition are interrelated and how caregivers influence children's early attitudes and health practices. The focus will be to address the needs of young children from birth to three years of age. This course will offer six main strategies that you can implement immediately with the children and families with whom you work.

At the end of this course, the candidate will be able to:

- Implement the identified safety and security strategies within a learning environment; including a daily health check log.
- Report all situations of child abuse and neglect by accurately documenting signs and indications of suspected child abuse or neglect.
- Apply strategies to support the design and maintenance of a safe indoor environment and learning space by utilizing a safety checklist and describing actions to be taken to correct any findings.
- Implement age-appropriate health procedures by describing the use of universal precautions, including proper handwashing procedures and maintaining open communication with families about their child's development.
- Implement strategies and activities related to healthy living and nutrition.
- Name resources and regulations for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, Shaken Baby Syndrome, and Swaddling.

These strategies are job-embedded and will need to be implemented with the infants and toddlers in your setting.

Salud, Seguridad y Nutrición para Bebés y Niños Pequeños (ITHSNS)

Ofrecer a los niños más pequeños un entorno sano y seguro es sumamente importante. Este curso se centrará específicamente en cómo la salud, la seguridad y la nutrición están interrelacionadas y cómo los cuidadores influyen en las actitudes y prácticas de salud tempranas de los niños. El enfoque será como abordar las necesidades de los niños pequeños desde su nacimiento hasta los tres años de edad. Este curso ofrecerá seis estrategias principales que los cuidadores podrán poner en práctica inmediatamente con los niños y las familias con las que trabajan.

Al finalizar este curso, el candidato podrá:

- Aplicar las estrategias de seguridad y protección identificadas dentro de un entorno de aprendizaje; incluido un registro diario de comprobaciones de salud.
- Denunciar todas las situaciones de maltrato y negligencia infantil documentando con precisión los signos e indicios de sospecha de maltrato o negligencia infantil.
- Aplicar estrategias para apoyar el diseño y el mantenimiento de un entorno y un espacio de aprendizaje interior seguros, utilizando una lista de comprobación de seguridad y describiendo las medidas que deben tomarse para corregir cualquier hallazgo.
- Aplicar procedimientos de salud adecuados a la edad describiendo el uso de precauciones universales, incluidos procedimientos adecuados de lavado de manos y el mantenimiento de una comunicación abierta con las familias sobre el desarrollo de sus niños(as).
- Aplicar estrategias y actividades relacionadas con la vida sana y la nutrición.
- Nombrar los recursos y normativas identificados para abordar el Síndrome de Muerte Súbita del Lactante, Síndrome del Bebé Sacudido y Cómo Envolver al Bebé.

Estas estrategias están integradas en el trabajo y deberán implementarse con los bebés y niños pequeños en su entorno.

Guiding Preschool Behavior and Building Classroom Community (PGB)

Participants explore the importance of building healthy relationships with preschoolers and learn strategies to promote a positive classroom community. In addition, participants investigate ways to support children as they develop social skills and learn strategies they can implement in their programs to guide preschoolers toward positive behaviors.

At the end of this course, the candidate will be able to:

- Practice building positive relationships between children and establishing trusting relationships with parents by focusing on positive communication and sharing children's successes
- Create specific ways to promote a positive classroom climate, such as the creation of a kindness tree, jar, or other display
- Practice helping children to recognize and communicate their feelings effectively by implementing an activity that promotes emotional literacy
- Communicate clear behavior expectations in a learning environment, including a class meeting to create or review class rules
- Apply developmentally appropriate guidance approaches, such as using the personal message strategy, and reflect upon their practice using them
- Implement strategies to promote social problem solving, including the steps for conflict resolution when disagreements occur in the classroom

These strategies are job-embedded and will need to be implemented with the preschoolers in your setting.

Pautas De Comportamiento Y Creación De Comunidad En El Ámbito Preescolar (PGBS)

En este curso exploraremos las estrategias que apoyan las interacciones de alta calidad en las aulas de preescolar. Investigaremos formas de apoyar a los niños a medida que desarrollan habilidades sociales y aprenderemos estrategias que podemos implementar para guiarlos hacia comportamientos positivos.

Al finalizar este curso, el candidato podrá:

- Practicar formas de crear relaciones positivas entre los niños y establecer relaciones de confianza con las familias, centrándose en la comunicación positiva y compartiendo los éxitos de los niños de forma verbal, escrita o electrónica.
- Crear formas específicas de fomentar un clima positivo en el aula, como la creación de un árbol o tarro de la amabilidad, u otro tipo de exhibición.
- Ayudar a los niños a reconocer y comunicar sus sentimientos de forma eficaz poniendo en práctica una actividad que promueva la alfabetización emocional.
- Comunicar expectativas claras de comportamiento en un entorno de aprendizaje, incluida una reunión de clase para crear o revisar las reglas de la clase.
- Aplicar enfoques de orientación apropiados al desarrollo, como el uso de la estrategia del mensaje personal, y reflexionar sobre su práctica al utilizarlos.
- Aplicar estrategias para promover la resolución de problemas sociales, incluido el uso de los pasos para la resolución de conflictos cuando se produzcan desacuerdos en el aula.

Estas estrategias están integradas en el trabajo y deberán implementarse con los niños en edad preescolar en su entorno.

Instructional Support in Preschool: Quality of Feedback (PQF)

In this course, you'll learn more about the importance of providing quality feedback and explore simple ways to make your everyday interactions with children more beneficial for children. Specifically, you'll learn and apply evidence-based strategies to boost the quality of your feedback as you facilitate children's learning.

At the end of this course, the candidate will be able to:

- Scaffold children's learning during daily activities, preparing to address potential responses or difficulties
- Integrate feedback loops to sustain conversations
- Strategically prompt children's thought processes
- Clarify and extend children's responses to expand understanding
- Provide specific, encouraging feedback on children's actions or work

These strategies are job-embedded and will need to be implemented with the preschoolers in your setting.

Apoyo Instructivo en el Preescolar: Calidad de los Comentarios (PQFS)

En este curso, aprenderá más sobre la importancia de brindar comentarios de calidad y explorará formas sencillas de hacer que sus interacciones diarias con los niños sean más beneficiosas para ellos. Específicamente, aprenderá y aplicará estrategias basadas en evidencia para mejorar la calidad de sus comentarios, al tiempo que facilita el aprendizaje de los niños.

Al finalizar este curso, el candidato podrá:

- Dar andamiaje durante las actividades diarias de los niños para apoyar su aprendizaje, y estar preparado para abordar posibles respuestas o dificultades.
- Integrar los ciclos de comentarios para incentivar y mantener las conversaciones.
- Estimular estratégicamente los procesos de pensamiento de los niños.
- Clarificar y ampliar las respuestas de los niños para aumentar su comprensión.
- Proporcionar comentarios específicos y motivadores sobre las acciones o el trabajo de los niños.

Estas estrategias están integradas en el trabajo y deberán implementarse con los niños en edad preescolar en su entorno.

Language Development for Infants and Toddlers (ITLD)

In this course, you will learn about language development in infants and toddlers and gain practical skills to accelerate their children's learning. The course addresses topics including facilitation, feedback, and conversation encouragement

At the end of this course, the candidate will be able to:

- Implement planned communication loops with the infants and toddlers in your care
- Select appropriate toys, books, and other materials and plan related descriptive speech to facilitate exploration of the environment and enhance language development
- Use mediation to promote the development of early language and speech skills in infants and toddlers
- Set up learning spaces for exploratory play that facilitate toddlers' language development
- Provide quality feedback to toddlers by expanding and extending what they say
- Facilitate peer conversations between the toddlers in your care using modeling

These strategies are job-embedded and will need to be implemented with the infants and toddlers in your setting.

This course no longer is part of the Emergent Micro-Credential and will no longer count towards completion of that program.

Preschool Language Development (PLD)

Children develop strong language skills when they are surrounded by rich conversations and vocabulary. In this course, you'll explore language development in young children and learn evidence-based strategies for helping children develop language skills and extend their vocabulary knowledge.

At the end of this course, the candidate will be able to:

- Use open-ended questions to foster expanded thought and expression in children
- Effectively extend child responses, integrating open-ended questions into extension
- Promote the use of advanced language to encourage vocabulary development
- Prompt children's thought processes during activities, making sure to reinforce concepts, clarify understandings, and provide encouragement
- Integrate self- and parallel talk into activities
- Identify methods of supporting peer conversations
- Utilize specific strategies to support the communication skills of children with special needs and dual language learners

These strategies are job-embedded and will need to be implemented with the preschoolers in your setting.

This course no longer is part of the Emergent Micro-Credential and will no longer count towards completion of that program.

Desarrollo del Lenguaje en Niños Preescolares (PLDS)

Los niños desarrollan habilidades lingüísticas sólidas cuando están rodeados de un vocabulario amplio y variado y de conversaciones enriquecedoras. En este curso, explorará el desarrollo del lenguaje en la niñez y aprenderá estrategias basadas en la evidencia para ayudar a los niños a desarrollar habilidades lingüísticas y ampliar su conocimiento del vocabulario.

Al finalizar este curso, el candidato podrá:

- Utilizar preguntas abiertas para incentivar a los niños a pensar más detenidamente y a expresarse con mayor amplitud
- Ampliar las respuestas de los niños de forma eficaz e integrar preguntas abiertas para lograrlo
- Promover el uso de un lenguaje avanzado para incentivar el desarrollo del vocabulario
- Estimular los procesos de pensamiento de los niños durante las actividades, asegurándose de reforzar conceptos, clarificar lo que entienden y dar ánimo
- Integrar estrategias de habla paralela y de hablar de sí mismo en las actividades
- Identificar métodos para incentivar las conversaciones entre pares
- Utilizar estrategias específicas para apoyar las habilidades de comunicación de los niños con necesidades especiales y de los aprendices de dos idiomas

Estas estrategias están integradas en el trabajo y deberán implementarse con los niños en edad preescolar en su entorno.

Este curso ya no forma parte de la microcredencial «Emergent» y ya no contará para la finalización de dicho programa.

The Building Blocks of Preschool Literacy (PLIT)

The ability to read and write is central to our daily lives. Early literacy refers to the development of reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills that are crucial for building the foundation of literacy success in later years. In this course, you'll learn about the development of early literacy skills and discover how to support these crucial building blocks for preschoolers' eventual success as readers and writers. Building these skills is very important because a child who enters kindergarten behind in literacy skill development will be at a long-term disadvantage. This course will review the research and provide you with ways to support the children in your group as they continue on their journey to becoming successful readers and writers.

At the end of this course, the candidate will be able to:

- Use print referencing to instruct children about book conventions and print awareness
- Support letter and accompanying sound recognition in a manner that accommodates diverse learning styles
- Identify various phonological awareness skills and implement activities that support the development of those skills
- Explain the importance of and conduct interactive multiple read alouds of a high-quality children's book
- Identify the stages of emergent writing and implement writing prompt activities that support developing writers
- Identify the attributes of story retellings and reenactments and plan retelling or reenactment activity for the children in your classroom

These strategies are job-embedded and will need to be implemented with the preschoolers in your setting.

This course no longer is part of the Emergent Micro-Credential and will no longer count towards completion of that program.