I. Descriptive Information

A. Course Number and Title: EDEC 608: Parent/Family Involvement in Early Childhood Education
B. Catalogue Description: Examine research and practice as related to multiple facets of parent and family functioning and involvement in early childhood education.
C. Credit Awarded: Three graduate credit hours
D. Prerequisites: None
E. Intended Audience: Masters, Education Specialists, and Doctorate
F. Instructor: Dr. Kevin J. Swick, Ph.D.
   Professor, College of Education
   Wardlaw 106
   Phone: 803-777-5278 or cell phone: 803-238-6082
   Fax: 803-777-7970
   Email: kswick@gwm.sc.edu

II. Statement of Learning Outcomes: Goals and Objectives

A. GOAL: To engage students in increasing their knowledge and skills in designing and using effective parent and family involvement in early childhood education.
B. OBJECTIVES:
   1. Develop an understanding of:
      *The multiple meanings of family;
      *How we learn about families;
      *Major changes influencing families;
      *Intra-family changes;
      *How families learn and develop;
      *The bases of family differences in functioning.

   2. Develop an understanding of the research and application of the knowledge base on building effective family-school relations:
      *research findings;
      *critical empowering elements of the partnership;
      *important teacher and parent behaviors;
      *the substance of the Comer and Epstein approaches.
      *Cultural influences impacting family-school relations

   3. Develop an understanding of parenting dynamics; and key aspects of parent education/family strengthening programs and
practices: relating these insights to knowledge, attitudes, and skills needed for effective parent/family involvement.
*Culture and family
*Key parenting and family programs

4. Develop an understanding of the critical perspectives and elements needed for forming a meaningful family involvement program inclusive of:
*An empowerment based decision making process;
*Key elements in successful programs;
*Challenges and barriers confronting programs; goals and strategies, and evaluation tools/strategies.
*Technology and family involvement

5. Develop an understanding of the research bases and effective practices in family-school and parent-teacher communication.

III. Required Texts and Key Readings


Recommend:


IV. Academic Course Requirements

Course Requirements

1. Attend and participate in all class sessions.
2. Complete Reading and Class Reflections Journal
3. Complete the Parent/Family/Community Project in ECE

V. Administrative Course Requirements
*The University’s attendance policy is adhered to in this course
*Please completed and turn in assignments on designated due dates
*Please use APA style in all written work
VI. Evaluation and Grading

1. EVALUATION:
   *Reading/Class Journal   100
   *Parent/Fam/Comm Project 100
   *Class Attendance / Participation 50
   TOTAL          250

2. GRADING:
   *A =  225+
   *B+= 200+
   *B=  180+
   *C+= 170+
   *C=  160+

VII. Major Course Topics

*Understanding Families
   -Exploring the multiple meanings of family
   -How we learn about families
   -Major changes influencing families
   -Intra-family changes and what they mean
   -The family as a learning system
   -Differences in family functioning
   -Cultural influences and families

*Building Effective Family-School Relations
   -The research base on effective family-school relations
   -Critical empowering elements of the family-school relationship
   -Important teacher and parent behaviors
   -Epstein’s multi-level family involvement model
   -Comer’s ecological model for family and community involvement
   -Guidelines for developing empowering family-school relations

*Understanding and Supporting Parents and Families Through Parent Education and Family Support
   -Parenting as process and growth – key roles
   -Challenges and barriers to effective parenting
   -Four key components of parental integrity and functioning
   -Parent/family empowerment as focus
   -Diverse programs to meet varied cultural and social needs
   -Comprehensive parent education and family strengthening
   -Focus on parent and family patterns for healthy functioning
*Critical Perspectives and Elements Needed for Meaningful Family Involvement*
- An empowerment approach to decision making
- Key elements in successful programs
- Meeting the challenges and barriers to success
- Developing a family involvement program framework
- Issues in building a history of success
- Technology and family involvement

*Parent-Teacher Communication: Key to Success*
- Communication as a growth process
- Covey’s key principles of empathic communication
- Hall’s research on non-verbal communication across cultures
- Proactive parent-teacher communication
- Eight communication behaviors that work
- Ten questions to guide your communication efforts
- A plethora of parent-teacher communication approaches
- The barriers to communication and overcoming them

VIII. Modes of Instruction

*Lecture*
*Discussion*
*Video demonstrations*
*Field work, applying concepts in work settings*
*Guest lectures*
*Journaling*

IX. Bibliography


