School Age Connections

Accountability: Each unit within a module ends with an application activity that must be submitted and reviewed by the course instructor. Each module ends with a 40 question exam. Students must earn an 80% or higher on the exam to earn a certificate for the module. They have multiple opportunities to take the exam.

Module 1: Understanding the Development of the School Age Child

This module will introduce you to the development of the School Aged Child. The module will review overall characteristics in this age group and go in-depth to the domains of Social/Emotional, Cognitive, and Physical development. Understanding how youth develop will better enable adults to set appropriate expectations and develop engaging learning experiences for them.

This module covers Nebraska School-Age and Youth Development Core Competency Areas:

A. Growth and Development
B. Health
E. Professionalism

Unit 1: Development of School Age Children
Objectives:
• To become familiar of Overall Developmental Characteristics of the School Aged Child
• To become familiar with Social, Emotional, Cognitive, and Physical developmental domains
• To become familiar with approaches used to positively influence overall development

Unit 2: Positive Youth Development
Objectives
• To become familiar with Positive Youth Development characteristics and how to promote them

- To become familiar with the 5Cs and how they impact Positive Youth Development in youth programming
- To become familiar with strategies for encouraging Youth Leadership within the program and community

Unit 3: Special Needs
Objectives
- To become familiar with best practices associated with inclusion of children with special needs
- To assess individual and program needs for inclusion of children with special needs

Unit 4: Valuing Diversity
Objectives
- To become familiar with multiculturalism and diversity
- To become familiar with best practices associated with teaching acceptance of diversity
- To assess individual and program needs for multiculturalism and diversity

Unit 5: Extending Your Practice
Objectives
- To become familiar with outside resources (books, websites, videos) to assist in understanding the content within the module
- To apply information from outside resources to individual practices

Module 2: Successful Programming for School Aged Children

Developmentally appropriate programs and activities should engage the interest and promote the overall development of school-age children.

This module will review characteristics of high quality programming and methods used to evaluate program quality. It will also cover various curricula used in after school programming to enhance the overall learning environment. An entire Unit offers resources for games and activities and reviews the importance of cooperation versus competition in programs. Developing and maintaining partnerships with parents is also reviewed.

This module covers Nebraska School-Age and Youth Development Core Competency Areas:
B. Health, Safety, and Nutrition
C. Relationships

D. Learning

Unit 1: Quality Programming
Objectives
- Identify characteristics of quality programming
- Identify methods used for program evaluation
- Identify environmental design elements of high quality programs

Unit 2: Curriculum
Objectives
- To examine ways to include multicultural experiences in programming
- To discover the importance of including Literacy Based experiences in programs
- To become familiar with STEM/Project Based/Inquiry Based approaches to learning and how to implement such approaches
- To become familiar with appropriate uses of Technology in programs

Unit 3: Games and Activities
Objectives
- To examine appropriate selection of activities for school aged children
- To discover ways to create non-competitive, cooperative games
- To gain access to resources for appropriate games and activities for school age programs

Unit 4: Partnerships with Parents
Objectives
- To understand the importance of program partnerships with parents
- To become with the stages of parenthood and how they relate to parenting and programming
- To become familiar with strategies for developing and maintaining positive, healthy partnerships with families

Unit 5: Extending Your Practice
Objectives
- To become familiar with outside resources (books, websites, videos) to assist in understanding the content within the module
- To apply information from outside resources to individual practices

Module 3: Guidance for Working with School Aged Children

Positive, trusting relationships between adults and school age children are critical to high quality learning environments.

This module will focus on how to build positive, trusting relationships with youth through effective communication and guidance strategies. Adult-youth and peer-peer relationships are discussed and strategies offered for promoting overall cooperative environments. Characteristic behaviors of school age children are reviewed and guidance techniques for dealing with behaviors are explored. Having mixed ages in programming can present unique challenges, which are acknowledged as well as the benefits of them in this module.

This module covers Nebraska School-Age and Youth Development Core Competency Areas:

   A. Growth and Development
   B. Health, Safety, and Nutrition
   C. Relationships
   D. Professionalism

Unit 1: Building Relationships
Objectives:
   • To identify the importance of adult-youth interactions in the development of positive relationships
   • To discover communication styles and their effectiveness in working with youth
   • To become familiar with strategies in helping youth develop peer relationships

Unit 2: Behaviors
Objectives:
   • To become familiar with the role Emotions play in the overall development of school age children
   • To examine appropriate and inappropriate behaviors and strategies for working with each
   • To discover effective strategies for building competence in youth

Unit 3: Guidance
Objectives:
   • To examine the differences between Discipline and Punishment
   • To become familiar with effective strategies for dealing with youth conflict in programming
   • To discover multiple strategies for positive guidance when working with school aged children

Unit 4: Successful Mixed Age Groups
Objectives:
   • To become familiar with characteristics of development of mixed aged groupings

- To explore challenges and advantages for successful programming with mixed aged groups
- To explore the role of the adult in programming for youth

Unit 5: Extending Your Practice
Objectives:
- To become familiar with outside resources (books, websites, videos) to assist in understanding the content within the module
- To apply information from outside resources to individual practices