
UNIT: Overview of Child Development

LESSON: Value of Studying Children

TIME: 1 day

COMPETENCIES:

1. Evaluate the reasons for learning about children. (Options 1 and 2)
2. Recognize how development during early childhood impacts individuals as adults. (Options 4 and 5)
3. Identify factors in personal life that have impacted growth and development. (Options 3, 4, 5, and 6)
4. Evaluate the impact of society on children and children on society, past and present. (Option 8)

OVERVIEW/SUMMARY: The study of children should be an important part of every person's life. We cannot communicate with children if we do not understand them. Our lives have been greatly influenced by our childhood and our experiences.

MOTIVATOR:

The teacher could introduce herself/himself by unpacking a suitcase full of items that in some way represent his/her life. The type of suitcase or bag used to hold the items tells a lot about the teacher. For example: an athlete would probably use a sports bag, a hiker or biker might use a fanny pack, etc. Inside the suitcase or bag could be shirts with symbols or sayings that represent the teacher's feelings, a picture of a pet or family member, a favorite candy bar, something that represents a hobby, etc. It should be a fun introduction that tries to help each class member identify with the teacher in some way.

LESSON OPTIONS/SUPPLIES:

OPTION 1

BOOK: I Started School Today or This Is Me

JOURNAL ENTRY: My first day of school.

OPTION 2--Competency 1

CHILD DEVELOPMENT IS: Have the students brainstorm answers to complete the sentence "Child Development is..." then have each student stand and introduce him/herself and share his/her answer. (You may wish to have them share why they are taking the class and/or how it could help them in their lives. After students have shared their ideas, compare their definitions with one in a text (or your own) and discuss your philosophy concerning children, child development, and the course in general.

OPTION 3--Competencies 1 and 2

EARLY CHILDHOOD SCENARIOS: With the class in small groups, complete the early childhood scenarios. Be sure to discuss the importance of parents providing a strong foundation for children during their childhood. Discuss the "Scenario Review" with the class.

OPTION 4--Competencies 2 and 3

MY CHILDHOOD WAS . . . : In class, have the students write a letter to themselves describing a childhood experience. At the end of the letter, have them write their feelings about how this has and/or will affect them in life.

OPTION 5--Competencies 2 and 3

EVALUATING YOUR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT: Have the students complete the "Evaluating Your Personal Development" student worksheet. Remind them that childhood is an important time that will affect their entire lives. When they become parents, it is vital that they do all they can to provide a strong foundation for their children to help them grow and develop into physically, socially, emotionally, and mentally healthy individuals. Looking into their own childhood can help them recognize positive or negative parenting techniques from which they can learn.

OPTION 6--Competencies 2 and 3

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES: Have students write a list of at least six experiences they remember from childhood. They should then write a short sentence explaining how each of these experiences has affected their lives. (You may wish to have them select one event and write an essay on the affect it has had in their lives.) **CAUTION:** Many of these events are very personal to the students and should not be shared with the class unless a student has given specific permission for you to do so.

OPTION 7--Competencies 2 and 3

PERSONAL SUITCASE: Have students prepare a suitcase like the one used in the introduction. They can then introduce themselves to the rest of the class and share insights relating to their childhood and their present lives.

OPTION 8--Competency 4

PAINTINGS OF CHILDREN: Show the class the various paintings of children as you discuss the information given with this lesson.

OPTION 9--Competency 2

Ask the students: "If I want my child to grow up to be a physically healthy individual, what are some specific things I should do?" Write their responses on the board.

Answers should include the following:

- Feed them good food
- Make sure they have plenty of rest
- Provide them with clothing and shelter
- Take them to the doctor for regular checkups and when they are ill
- Have them immunized

You must constantly nourish children from the moment they are born. Review the transparency, "Encouraging Growth in the Child." Discuss how all aspects of the child's life must be nurtured.

RESOURCES:

This Is Me, ISBN 0-321-00967-4

Further information about children, past and present may be found in The Developing Child, pages 22-25. PAST AND PRESENT Fifth Edition.

A Child's World: Infancy Through Adulthood, Diane E. Papalia and Sally Wendkos Olds, McGraw Hill Book Co., New York, NY, 1975. ISBN 0-07-048450-3.

A History of Art and Music, H.W.A. Janson and Joseph Kerman, Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N.J., ISBN: 0-13-0389312-X.

Childcraft, Volume 13, Art and Music, Field Enterprises, Inc., Chicago, 1949.

Children, 2nd Edition, John W. Santrock, Wm. C. Brown Publishers, Dubuque, IA., 1988. ISBN: 0-697-10496-6.

Looking At Paintings of Children, Peggy Roalf, Hyperion Books for Children, N.Y., 1993, ISBN: 1-56282-309-4.

The Developing Child Understanding Children and Parenting, Holly E. Brisbane, Glencoe Publishing Co., Mission Hills, CA., 1988. ISBN: 0-02-675910-1.