

Minnesota State University Moorhead

PSY 611: Children's Thinking and Learning

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

This course covers key research and theories in cognitive development. Topics will center on development of perceptual abilities, language, memory, concepts, social cognition, brain development and problem solving from birth through adolescence. In addition, the instructional progression needed for children to learn to read, write and do math will be explored.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 01/28/2022 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Thinking in symbols
2. Folk knowledge
3. Executive function, strategies and problem solving
4. Memory and language development
5. Social cognition
6. Schooling and cognitive development
7. Learning to read, write and do math
8. Instructional needs at different learning stages
9. Cognitive development: structure and function
10. Biological bases of cognitive development
11. Sociocultural bases of cognitive development
12. Perception development

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Articulate the developmental progression of reading, writing, language and math skills.
2. Analyze similarities and differences in cognitive development within a social cultural context.
3. Evaluate children's academic skill levels and articulate the next steps needed in the progression of instruction.
4. Apply developmental theories of thinking and learning (biological, sociocultural, constructivist).
5. Apply developmental theories of thinking and learning to observations of children.
6. Articulate children's strategies and limitations in thinking and problem solving.
7. Describe cognitive milestones and the critical periods of development.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted