**CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

Child Development Department (http://www.csuchico.edu/child/)
Modoc Hall 216  
530-898-5250  
530-898-5694 (fax)  
Email: child@csuchico.edu  
Chair: Gail E. Walton

**Insight**

The Department of Child Development offers opportunities for students to learn about current child development theories and research, and to observe and apply this knowledge during practical field experiences.

Our program focuses not only on prenatal, infant, and early child development, but also middle childhood, adolescence, and emerging adulthood. We offer a comprehensive approach to:

- Learning about children's social, emotional, cognitive, physical, and neurodevelopment.
- Assessing children and environments (developmental needs, behavioral guidance, home, school, community).
- Analyzing developmental contexts (including gender, ethnicity, social class, culture).
- Understanding how relationships (e.g., family, peer, romantic) shape development.
- Internship courses that allow students to apply knowledge, learning experiences, and critical thinking skills in professional settings.

In addition to developmental period courses (i.e., prenatal/infancy, early and middle childhood, adolescence, and emerging adulthood), we offer courses on dating, marriage, parenting, family relations, children’s gender and sexuality, risk and resilience, social and emotional intelligence, and global perspectives of childhood.

We have exceptional faculty with expertise in a wide array of child development topics and areas of professional work related to children and families. Our advisors and faculty are highly involved with students, helping them develop their academic and career goals.

Child development majors have the opportunity to participate in three internship courses that are embedded in the major, each one offering students diverse opportunities to gain important work-related knowledge, experiences, and applied skills under the guidance and supervision of staff and faculty. Some students may complete honors in the major, gaining essential research-related skills and opportunities. Additionally, we offer several unique 1-unit courses to help students further explore their professional and academic interests.

**Experience**

Child development provides a wide variety of courses and internships designed to prepare students for work in careers focused on children and families. For example, students gain knowledge and experiences that can help prepare them to pursue a teaching career, work in human service agencies that support children and families, engage advocacy, and conduct research. Faculty assist and support students' professional development by fostering collaborative learning environments that integrate high-quality teaching, mentoring, promoting scholarly activities, guiding relevant practical experiences, and modeling leadership.

We have a very active Child Development Student Association (CDSA) that is advised by one of our faculty members. Attending CDSA meetings provide opportunities to:

- Meet other peers who are taking or have taken child development courses and may be interested in pursuing similar careers.
- Learn from professionals about their work in related fields.
- Develop leadership skills/experiences for those who are interested in becoming an officer.

**Outlook**

Students in the Department of Child Development understand how development and environments affect children and families and apply this knowledge in a variety of personal and professional settings.

Graduates of the program are knowledgeable and reflective professionals who have gained valuable field experience and who recognize and value the uniqueness and diversity of children and families within and across multiple contexts.

Our graduates work in a variety of professional fields including public and private education (pre-K–12), childcare staff and administration, early intervention and other human service agencies, community programs (e.g., YMCA, Boys & Girls Clubs, youth development), behavioral assessment, family resource and referral specializations (e.g., foster care and adoption), and parent support programs. Many of our graduates obtain additional degrees to work as child life specialists, social workers, counselors, school psychologists, researchers, and program or agency directors.

**Programs**

**Undergraduate**

**Bachelor's**


**Minors**


See Course Description Symbols and Terms (https://catalog.csuchico.edu/academic-standards-policies/course-description-symbols-terms/) for an explanation of course description terminology and symbols, the course numbering system, and course credit units.

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**CHLD 189 Intro Children's Center**  
1-2 Units  
Typically Offered: Inquire at department  
2 hours lecture. (001444)  
Grade Basis: Graded  
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 15 units  
Course Attributes: Lower Division
CHLD 198  Special Topics  1-3 Units
Prerequisite: Department permission.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This course is for special topics offered for 1.0-3.0 units. Typically the
topic is offered on a one-time-only basis and may vary from term to term
and be different for different sections. See the Class Schedule for the
specific topic being offered. 3 hours supervision. (001445)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course more than once
Course Attributes: Lower Division

CHLD 222  Working with Children  1 Unit
Typically Offered: Fall only
This introductory course focuses on understanding children's social,
emotional, cognitive, physical, and neurodevelopment and current
evidence-based practices in working with children. Enrolled students
generate in discussions with faculty and other professionals whose
work focuses on children and families. Careers that involve children
from infancy through early adulthood will be discussed. 1 hour
lecture. (022534)
Grade Basis: Credit/No Credit
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 1 unit
Course Attributes: Lower Division

CHLD 251  Observational Techniques  3 Units
Prerequisite: CHLD 252 (may be taken concurrently).
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This course includes acquisition and application of basic observation
skills regarding children's physical, cognitive, social, and emotional
development. 2 hours activity, 2 hours discussion. (001441)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Lower Division

CHLD 252  Child Development  3 Units GE, USD
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
A study of the physical, cognitive, social and emotional development of
children from conception through adolescence. The course examines
genetic, biological, and environmental influences including cross-cultural
issues. Scheduled observations are included. 3 hours lecture. (001442)
General Education: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development (E)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Lower Division; US Diversity

CHLD 255  Marriage and Family Relationships  3 Units GE, USD
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This is an introductory course to marriage and family, including
psychological, physiological, and social aspects of close personal
relationships. The course explores the social-historical construction
of family and intimate relationships and the intersectionality of race,
ethnicity, gender, social class and age that influence the pursuit
and experience of romantic and family relationships, including parent-child
relationships. Contemporary topics such as dating, courtship, marriage,
family life, divorce practices, parenting practices, family economics,
imimate partner violence, and sexuality are considered through a
contextual lens and the impact of ethnicity, gender and social class on
these topics is presented. 3 hours discussion. (001443)
General Education: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development (E)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Lower Division; US Diversity

CHLD 272  Children in a Changing World  3 Units GC, GE
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
To address the challenge of understanding development in its many
contexts and manifestations, this course provides a global investigation
of critical issues influencing the lives of children. This course focuses on
familial and societal influences on children's development and explores
how the concept of childhood is shaped by cultural and social practices
and policies. 3 hours lecture. (021161)
General Education: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development (E)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Lower Division; Global Cultures

CHLD 282  Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum for Children: Theory
to Practice  3 Units
Prerequisite: CHLD 251, CHLD 252.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This course examines the role of curriculum in effective learning
programs for children's development. Students gain skills in applying
knowledge of children's growth and development to appropriate
experiences in the creative arts, play, math, science, literacy, language.
Planning, implementing, and evaluating curriculum activities
are key components of the course. Students in the class work directly
with children in an approved community program approximately 3 hours a
week: 2 hours discussion, 3 hours independent study. (001447)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units
Course Attributes: Lower Division

CHLD 299  Special Problems  1-3 Units
Prerequisite: Faculty permission.
Typically Offered: Inquire at department
You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. 0 hours
supervision. (020592)
Grade Basis: Credit/No Credit
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units
Course Attributes: Lower Division

CHLD 321  Risk and Resilience in Development  3 Units GE
Prerequisite: GE Oral Communication (A1); GE Written Communication
(A2); GE Critical Thinking (A3); GE Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning
(B4) requirements, or consent of the instructor.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
The goal of this online course is to explore typical development related
to healthy children with healthy relationships and to put that in the
context of children with risk (i.e., adverse experiences) and children who
overcome that risk (i.e., resilient). This understanding is viewed through
the lens of neurobiology (e.g., regulation and dysregulation understood
through brain functioning). Additionally, working with youth experiencing
either adverse trauma or relational poverty is emphasized. 3 hours
lecture. (021761)
General Education: Upper-Division Social Sciences (UDD); Health and
Wellness Pathway
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division
CHLD 333W Children's Gender and Sexuality Development (W)  3 Units GE, USD, W
Prerequisite: Junior standing; GE Oral Communication (A1); GE Written Communication (A2); GE Critical Thinking (A3); GE Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (B4) requirements, or consent of the instructor.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This topical course is designed for students who wish to develop a broader and deeper understanding of children's gender and sexuality development. Students study multiple theoretical explanations of gender and sexuality development, and learn how biological, social, cultural, and cognitive influences impact concepts of gender and sexuality. 3 hours lecture. (021356)
General Education: Upper-Division Social Sciences (UDD); Gender and Sexuality Pathway
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division; US Diversity; Writing Course

CHLD 350 Prenatal-Infant Development: Advanced  3 Units
Prerequisite: CHLD 252 or PSYC 355.
Typically Offered: Spring only
This course studies characteristic developmental changes in and environmental influences on human infants from conception to approximately two years of age. Special emphasis is on sensory-perceptual abilities, social-emotional interactions, and cognitive developmental processes. Guided observations of infants required. 3 hours discussion. (001446)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 351 Toddler-Early Childhood Development: Advanced  3 Units
Prerequisite: CHLD 252 or PSYC 355.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This course examines the physical, cognitive, emotional, and psychosocial aspects of growth during the stages of toddlerhood and early childhood (approximately ages 2 through 5), as well as contextual influences (e.g., family, group experiences, socioeconomic status, culture) on development for children of this age. 3 hours lecture. (021623)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 353W Methods of Inquiry in Child Development (W)  3 Units W, GW
Prerequisite: GE Written Communication (A2), GE Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (B4), CHLD 251, CHLD 252, CHLD majors only.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
Students learn the fundamentals of scientific methodology, increase their knowledge of qualitative research methods, and acquire quantitative skills in measurement and statistical evaluation. These skills are applied through reviewing, evaluating, and communicating research. Students also identify the major dimensions of research strategies used in child development and related fields. 2 hours activity, 2 hours seminar. (001448)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division; Writing Course; Graduation Writing Assessment

CHLD 354 The School-Aged Child  3 Units
Prerequisite: CHLD 252 or PSYC 355.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This class examines the physical, cognitive, emotional, and psychosocial aspects of growth during the school-aged years (ages 5 through 12), as well as contextual influences (e.g., family, school, peer group) on children's development. Particular attention is paid to the implications of developmental patterns for those who work with school-aged children. 3 hours lecture. (001449)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 357 Adolescent Development  3 Units
Prerequisite: CHLD 252 or PSYC 355.
Typically Offered: Fall only
This course provides a broad research and theory-based overview of physical, cognitive, emotional, social, moral, and identity development during adolescence. An ecological framework is used to examine the influence of sociocultural contexts, ethnicity, gender, family, peers, and school settings on adolescent experience and development. 3 hours discussion. (001461)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 360 Social-Emotional Intelligence: Development and Learning  3 Units GE
Prerequisite: GE Oral Communication (A1); GE Written Communication (A2); GE Critical Thinking (A3); GE Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (B4) requirements, or consent of the instructor.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
The goal of this online course is to explore healthy social and emotional development including self-regulatory and interpersonal abilities, empathy development, prosocial behavior, and well-being across development periods from birth to young adulthood. Guided by interpersonal neurobiology (an interdisciplinary field that integrates attachment research and emerging findings from neuroscience) and interdisciplinary research on social emotional learning (SEL) programs, we explore the influence of primary relationships and contexts (family, peers, school, community) in shaping social-emotional competencies, emotional intelligence, and emotional learning across developmental periods. 3 hours lecture. (022089)
General Education: Upper-Division Social Sciences (UDD); Health and Wellness Pathway
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 382 Professional Seminar in Child Development: Current Issues  3 Units
Prerequisite: CHLD 251, CHLD 252, CHLD 282, CHLD 353W, CHLD majors only.
Co-requisites: CHLD 392.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This course examines and appraises current and professional issues affecting the field of child development. Cultural and political influences on the practices of professionals in the field are explored and analyzed. 3 hours lecture. (020216)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division
CHLD 389 Internship in Child Dev
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
3 hours lecture. (001454)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 15 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 392 Child Development Practicum: Advanced
Prerequisite: CHLD 251, CHLD 252, CHLD 282, CHLD 353W, CHLD majors only.
Corequisites: CHLD 382.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This course is a supervised practicum. Students plan and implement a developmentally effective program for children, assess children’s developmental progress, and evaluate their own effectiveness and professional development in a leadership role. An emphasis on families and programs is included. Enrollment is limited. 3 hours activity, 1 hour independent study. (001455)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 4 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 396 Special Topics
Prerequisite: Department permission.
Typically Offered: Inquire at department
This course is for special topics offered for 1.0-3.0 units. Typically the topic is offered on a one-time-only basis and may vary from term to term and be different for different sections. See the Class Schedule for the specific topic being offered. 1 hour lecture. (001457)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course more than once
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 399 Special Problems
Prerequisite: Faculty permission.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This course is an independent study of special problems offered for 1.0-3.0 units. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. 9 hours supervision. (001458)
Grade Basis: Credit/No Credit
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 400 Issues in Assessment for Children
Prerequisite: CHLD 251, CHLD 252, CHLD 282, CHLD 353W, junior standing, CHLD majors only.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This course provides an overview of child assessment. The course offers the student both research-based theory and practical applications in these areas. Students apply the knowledge gained during class sessions and readings to relevant assigned projects and papers. 3 hours lecture. (001459)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 451 Working with Families in Diverse Communities:
Prerequisite: CHLD 251, CHLD 252, junior standing.
Typically Offered: Spring only
Through discussion, presentations, and written assignments students understand the nature of child development in diverse family contexts. Students assess the psychosocial developmental stages/tasks of families, the critical importance of culture/ethnic traditions, values, and beliefs and how these all affect development. Students engage in active, experiential learning, synthesize theory and practice, and evaluate the impact of social, ethnic, gender, and class contexts on themselves and their work with children and families. 3 hours seminar. (001460)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division; US Diversity

CHLD 455 Seminar in Family Relations
Prerequisite: CHLD 252 or CHLD 255 or PSYC 355, junior standing.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This course is an advanced study of the interpersonal relationships among family members. Topics of reading and discussion include theories and research on family structure and function, family crises, child raising patterns, family finances, and other related topics as per instructor choice. 3 hours discussion. (001462)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 456 Administration of Child Development Programs: Advanced
Prerequisite: CHLD 251, CHLD 252, junior standing.
Typically Offered: Spring only odd years
This course focuses on the role of the program administrator in various types of licensed child development facilities. Topics include programming, fiscal oversight, licensing regulations, personnel decisions, legal issues, and management aspects of children's programs. 3 hours seminar. (001463)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 462 Adult Supervision in Child Development Programs: Advanced
Prerequisite: CHLD 251, CHLD 252, junior standing.
Typically Offered: Spring only even years
This course offers opportunities to gain skills and knowledge about supervising adults in the workplace. Topics include interpersonal communication techniques, adult learning theory, leadership skills, professional collaboration, and personnel assessment in the early childhood education field. 3 hours lecture. (001465)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division
CHLD 489  Internship in Child Development  1-6 Units
Prerequisite: Faculty permission.
Typically Offered: Inquire at department
This course is an internship offered for 1.0-6.0 units. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. Provides direct experience in agencies, institutions, or work settings appropriate to the application of Child Development background and training. 9 hours supervision.  (001466)
Grade Basis: Report in Progress: CR/NC
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 15 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 492  Child Development Practice: Children and Families  3 Units
Prerequisite: CHLD 382, CHLD 392, CHLD major only.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This course is a guided internship for majors in Child Development. Based on individually determined internship learning objectives, students select a community-based agency placement that matches their career interest in children from birth through emerging adulthood and/or their families. Students spend a minimum of 7.5 hours a week in their internship placement for 12 weeks. 4 hours activity, 3 hours independent study.  (001467)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 495HW  Senior Seminar in Child Development - Honors (W)  3 Units  W
Prerequisite: CHLD 382, CHLD 392, CHLD majors only, acceptance in honors in the major program, department permission.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This capstone seminar integrates the perspectives of various disciplines concerned with the developing child. Its emphasis is on trauma-informed practices, physical, cognitive, personality, and social development of the child in relationship to the family, community, and society. From a research framework, the topics include program practices, professional ethics, collaboration, case management, effective communication, leadership styles, self evaluation, and professional responsibilities. Students also complete comprehensive portfolios as part of the course requirements. 3 hours seminar.  (001469)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division; Writing Course

CHLD 499  Special Topics  1-3 Units
Prerequisite: Department permission.
Typically Offered: Inquire at department
This course is for special topics offered for 1.0-3.0 units. Typically the topic is offered on a one-time-only basis and may vary from term to term and be different for different sections. See the Class Schedule for the specific topic being offered. 3 hours seminar.  (001470)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course more than once
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 499H  Honors Independent Study  3 Units
Prerequisite: CHLD majors only; acceptance in undergraduate honors program, department permission.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
Independent study resulting in a piece of scholarly or creative work involving substantial research to be completed and publicly presented. This will be the first course taken in the year-long honors program in the major and is open only to undergraduate honors students. 9 hours independent study.  (001472)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 689  Internship  1-6 Units
Typically Offered: Inquire at department
This course is an internship offered for 1.0-6.0 units. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member and receive department permission to enroll. 3 hours weekly supervision per unit. 9 hours supervision.  (001471)
Grade Basis: Credit/No Credit
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division

CHLD 697  Independent Study  1-3 Units
Prerequisite: Faculty permission.
Typically Offered: Inquire at department
This course is a graduate-level independent study offered for 1.0-3.0 units. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. 0 hours supervision.  (021873)
Grade Basis: Credit/No Credit
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units
Course Attributes: Graduate Division

CHLD 699  Senior Seminar in Child Development - Honors (W)  3 Units  W
Prerequisite: CHLD 382, CHLD 392, CHLD majors only.
Typically Offered: Fall and spring
This capstone seminar integrates the perspectives of various disciplines concerned with the developing child. Its emphasis is on trauma-informed practices, physical, cognitive, personality, and social development of the child in relationship to the family, community, and society. From a research framework, the topics include program practices, professional ethics, collaboration, case management, effective communication, leadership styles, self evaluation, and professional responsibilities. Students also complete comprehensive portfolios as part of the course requirements. 3 hours seminar.  (001468)
Grade Basis: Graded
Repeatability: You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units
Course Attributes: Upper Division; Writing Course

Child Development Department
The Faculty
Shrija R Dirghangi  2016
Associate Professor
Doctor of Philosophy Florida Atlantic Univ
Sara T Gordon  2024
Lecturer
Master of Science Texas Woman’S Univ
Shelley R Hart  2014
Professor
Doctor of Philosophy Univ Of Cal-Santa Barbara

Lisa D Jackson  2012
Lecturer
Master of Arts CSU-Chico

Theresa Manley  2006
Lecturer
Master of Education Univ Of New Hampshire At Manch

Lindsey M Nenadal  2019
Assistant Professor
Doctor of Philosophy Univ Of Cal-Los Angeles

Diana D Shepherd  2006
Professor
Doctor of Philosophy Utah St Univ

Valerie B Singleton  2011
Lecturer
Master of Arts Pacific Oaks College

Jennifer K Swisher  2015
Lecturer
Master of Social Work CSU-Chico

Cate H Szczepanski  2023
Lecturer
Master of Arts Pacific Oaks College

Gail E Walton  2007
Chair
Doctor of Philosophy Univ Of Texas At Dallas

YeoJoo Yoon  2022
Assistant Professor
Master of Education Univ Of Texas At Austin

Emeritus Faculty

Bradley B Glanville  1977
Emeritus
Doctor of Philosophy Michigan St Univ

Carol A Marshall
Emeritus
Master of Arts CSU-Chico

Cynthia S Ratekin
Emeritus
Doctor of Philosophy Univ Of Cal-Los Angeles