



Center for Early Education and Development

Online Course:

Premature Babies and Their Parents: Information and Insights for Early Intervention Personnel

Earn a Continuing Education Certificate (36 clock hours [CEUs])

Note: If you are from a state other than MN, you may want to check with your licensing board to verify that the same measurement standard will be applied in your state for this credit.

Course Description:

This course is designed to enhance the skills of early intervention professionals by providing them with background information about the experiences of parents who have given birth prematurely, the effect of premature birth on the infant's behavior and development, information about developmental care, and other research-based strategies proven to enhance the child's development and offer both parent education curricula as well as implementation strategies.

In 2007, the State of Minnesota adopted criteria for early intervention that automatically includes all infants born weighing 3 lbs. 5 oz. or less (under 1500 grams). This means that many families are referred to early intervention soon after their babies are discharged from the hospital, some even before. Early interventionists must be prepared to offer the right information and support to families and be able suggest activities that will promote the pre-term infant's development in an individualized manner.



Course Instructor:

Jolene Pearson, M.S. holds a B.E.S. degree from the University of Minnesota in Child Development. She earned an M.S. from Wheelock College in Boston in Infant and Toddler Behavior and Development. Ms. Pearson completed internships with Drs. Berry Brazelton and James Herzog at Harvard Medical School's Child Development Research Unit and Family Development Clinic in Boston, MA. Ms. Pearson has served as adjunct faculty and instructor at the University of Minnesota teaching courses in parent education, infant mental health, and early childhood special education, and Parent Infant Pathways. She is a certified Neonatal Behavioral Assessment Scale examiner and is licensed in Parent Education, Early Childhood Education, and

Early Childhood Special Education.

Comments from Course Participants:

Premature Babies and Their Parents gave me new insights into the art of home visiting, practical tools to use in the field, improved my understanding of premature infant development, expanded my knowledge of what parents go through, and helped to renew my desire in working for families and their children who have special needs.

I would recommend this course in its entirety to anyone who works with parents of prematurely born infants. The varied resources and presentations were extremely helpful to me.

I'm not sure where my professional journey will take me next but I do know that I will take the knowledge from this class and the stories of these families along with me as I go.

I found the Premature Babies and Their Parents course to be excellent. I learned many new facts and pointers as well as valuable insights into the world of the NICU and premature births. The readings associated with the modules provided nice support to the video learning.

Course Format: Online password-protected course website. Instructor-guided. Weekly assignments and activities.

Computer Requirements: Computer with internet access and high-speed connection.

Earn CEU Credit

You can earn 36 Clock Hours of Continuing Education Credit (CEUs) by successfully completing course requirements. The Certificate is approved and issued by the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota.

Fee: \$340, course fee, plus purchase of required reading materials as specified on the CEED web site.

To Register: Registration form and more information about the course and instructor are available on the CEED web site at <http://cehd.umn.edu/ceed/profdev/onlinecourses/preemies.htm>.

Questions? Contact Karen Anderson, CEED online course management, at 612-625-6617 or ander352@umn.edu.