

Directions

Please select **TWO (2)** of the three prompts/questions below to write two essays that are each at least 500 words apiece:

- Discuss the roles of parents, families, and early childhood educators, in relation to children's development.
- How does a child's development and social interactions between the ages of 0 to 5 years relate to the child's later academic performance, social relationships or personal well-being?
- How could one developmental theory be used by a parent/teacher/Child Life Specialist to create a developmentally appropriate environment that fosters a child's social-emotional development?

Each essay must include your name and the topic that you are writing about at the top of the first page. The essays will be evaluated for relevancy, the quality of the writing, organization, and critical thinking. Please see the evaluation rubric for details. Essays may also be checked for plagiarism using Turnitin.com.

ECDE Admission Writing Rubric

Criteria	5 pts	4 pts	3pts	2 pts	1 pt
Relevant/Focused	The response primarily relies on existing research and theory and contains a few personal experiences and reflections that are directly related to the prompt when appropriate.	The response mostly relies on existing research and theory and contains several personal experiences and reflections that are directly related to the prompt when appropriate.	The response includes some scholarly references and personal experiences, but they are not fully integrated (i.e., it is unclear how they are related to the overall responses).	The response mentions some research, but primarily focuses on the applicant's personal experiences and reflections.	The response does not mention research and is solely focused on the applicant's personal life and reflections.
Writing	Correct sentence structure, grammar, word usage and spelling are always used.	Correct sentence structure, grammar, word usage and spelling are mostly used.	There are some instances of correct sentence structure, grammar, word usage and spelling.	There are only a few instances of correct sentence structure, grammar, word usage and spelling.	There are multiple errors in sentence structure, grammar, word usage and spelling.
Organized & Coherent	The information is presented logically; all sections are well organized; and there is a clear progression throughout.	Most of the information is presented logically; most sections are well organized; and there is a clear progression throughout most of the response	The information is organized in a way that neither adds, nor detracts, from the overall quality of the response	The information is poorly organized; most sections are not well organized; and the response lack a clear progression throughout.	The information is so poorly organized that it is difficult to follow and understand.
Critical or Independent Thinking	The response demonstrates a high level of critical thinking and insight that is appropriate to the topic.	The response demonstrates some critical thinking that is appropriate to the response, but may reflect some limited errors in analytical procedures, assumptions, or knowledge base.	The response to the prompt is appropriate, but it does not demonstrate independent thinking or reasoning (i.e., it reads like a report summarizing what others think).	The response lacks an understanding of the content and logical organization, analysis, or synthesis (The response to the prompt is completely inappropriate. and lacks critical thinking and/or insight.

Total Points Possible = 20; Cut-off passing score = 16 (80%)