SUNY ORANGE, COURSE SYLLABUS

Language and Literacy Development in the Young Child

EDU 109, 3 Credits, Bio Tech 251

Spring 2026

Education Department, Liberal Arts Division

Meeting Days and Time:
Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Instructor Information

Instructor, Dr. Marigrace Walker

Office, Bio Tech Room 250

Phone, 845.341.4367

Email, Marigracewalker@sunyorange.edu

Office Hours, all office hours are in person. Please email to request a Zoom appointment if needed.

Monday: 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday: Email for appointments

Wednesday: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Thursday: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Friday: By Zoom 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Course Format and Technology
The format for this course is Middletown Traditional. This means instruction is in person, on campus, at the designated day and time. Brightspace is used for course materials, weekly folders, assignment submission, grades, and announcements.

Catalog Description
This course focuses on the interaction between speaking, listening, reading and writing in the development of language and literacy in young children. Emphasis is placed on the educator's role in providing a supportive environment through the use of both small and large group instruction, play experiences, open-ended materials, storybook reading, thematic units, and print rich environments. A grade of C or better is required to continue and graduate in the A.A.S./Certificate program. A grade of B- or better is required for SUNY New Paltz School of Education.

Prerequisite: ENG 101

Lecture Hours: 3

Credits: 3

Relationship to Programs

This course may be applicable to several programs. Consult your advisor and refer to the [SUNY Orange catalog](https://sunyorange.edu/catalog/) (https://sunyorange.edu/catalog/) that contains additional information relating to this course and to your program to ensure that this course is applicable to your chosen program of study.

Student Learning Outcomes

A student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

1. Identify and explain key language and literacy milestones for children from birth through age 5, including foundational components of the science of reading, and apply this information in developing strategies to engage families in supporting their children's language and literacy development.
2. Identify and explain the influences of culture, home language and developmental exceptionalities on language and literacy development and learning.
3. Identify and explain the impact of key areas of literacy development including oral language, phonological awareness, alphabet knowledge and print concepts on learning to read and write.
4. Create developmentally appropriate language and literacy early learning experiences and environments for young children, and show the connection to learning standards.
5. Explain the goals, uses and benefits of assessment in the development of language and literacy.
6. Demonstrate professionalism in the college level classroom, including respectful collaboration with peers and instructor, use of appropriate language, regular attendance and preparedness for class, completion of assignments on time and effective written communication skills.

CHRONOLOGY OF STUDY

Weeks & Dates	Topics	Assignments	Readings	Notes
Week 1 January 20 and January 22	Welcome and Course Foundations, Introductions, Course overview, What's in a Name in class activity	No homework due		

Weeks & Dates	Topics	Assignments	Readings	Notes
Week 2 January 27 and January 29	Foundations of Language and Literacy Development	Reflecting on the Power of Books due February 3, 2026	Read Chapter 1	
Week 3 February 3 and February 5	Research Based Instructional Approaches NYS Early Learning Standards Science of Reading in Pre K	Books About Rhyming due February 10, 2026		Study for Quiz 1
Week 4 February 10 and February 12	Differentiated Instruction	Non-Fiction Books due February 17, 2026 Begin thinking about Project 1: Culturally Responsive Literacy Collection	Read Chapter 2	Quiz 1 due February 12, 2026
Week 5 February 17 and February 19	Families' Role in Literacy Learning	Social Emotional Learning Books due February 24, 2026 Work on Project 1: Culturally Responsive Literacy Collection	Read Chapter 3	
Week 6 February 24 and February 26	The Literacy Learning Environment	Books About Friendship due March 3, 2026 Work on Project 1: Culturally Responsive Literacy Collection	Read Chapter 4	
Week 7 March 3 and March 5	Supporting Diverse Learners: SPED and EML	Books with Simple Concepts (Colors, Numbers, Shapes) due March 10, 2026	Read Chapter 5	
Week 8 March 10 and March 12	Supporting Diverse Learners: Motivation and Behavior	No homework due Spring Break follows	Read Chapter 6	

Weeks & Dates	Topics	Assignments	Readings	Notes
Spring Recess March 16 through March 20		No homework due		No classes
Week 9 March 24 and March 26	Listening and Speaking Development	Books for Imagination and Creativity due March 31, 2026 Begin thinking about Project 2: Writing and Literacy Project	Read Chapter 7	Quiz 3 due March 26, 2026
Week 10 March 31 and April 2	Selecting Quality Children's Literature	Books That Talk About Family and Community due April 7, 2026 Work on Project 2: Writing and Literacy Project	Read Chapter 8	
Week 11 April 7 and April 9	Teaching Early Reading	Writing and Literacy Project due April 9, 2026 Books That Help with Problem Solving due April 14, 2026 Begin thinking about Project 3: Build a Preschool Library	Read Chapter 9	
Week 12 April 14 and April 16	Teaching Early Writing	Classic Books for Preschoolers due April 21, 2026 Work on Project 3: Build a Preschool Library		Study for Quiz 4
Week 13 April 21 and April 23	Using Children's Books on Sensitive Topics Loss, trauma, identity, family change	Work on Project 3: Build a Preschool Library		Quiz 4 due April 23, 2026

Weeks & Dates	Topics	Assignments	Readings	Notes
Week 14 April 28 and April 30	Culturally Responsive and Inclusive Literature Books as mirrors, windows, and sliding glass doors	Read Aloud due April 30, 2026 Build a Preschool Library due April 30, 2026		

Types of Assessments and Grading

Final grades are determined by a weighted combination of the assessments listed below. The total equals 100 percent.

Weekly Homework Assignments

Ten percent of final grade

Students will complete weekly homework assignments in Brightspace. These assignments focus on applying course readings and class discussions to early childhood classroom practice. Homework assignments assess understanding of language and literacy development, cultural and linguistic influences, assessment practices, and foundational literacy concepts, including the science of reading.

Aligned SLOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

In Class Quizzes

Fifteen percent of final grade

Four quizzes will be given in class throughout the semester. Quizzes may include multiple choice, true and false, matching, and short answer questions. Quizzes assess understanding of course content, including literacy development, cultural and linguistic influences, foundational literacy skills, and connections to classroom practice.

Aligned SLOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6

Major Projects

Students will complete three major projects designed to build professional understanding of language and literacy development in early childhood settings.

The projects include:

1. a culturally responsive literacy resource and lesson design

2. a writing and literacy learning center plan grounded in developmentally appropriate practice
3. a final preschool library project demonstrating intentional book selection and classroom use

These projects assess the ability to select high quality literacy materials, plan developmentally appropriate learning experiences, connect practice to learning standards, and apply science of reading principles in authentic classroom contexts.

Aligned SLOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6

Attendance
Ten percent of final grade

Students are expected to attend class regularly. Attendance supports engagement in discussion based learning, modeling of instructional strategies, and professional responsibility. Students who miss more than three class meetings may lose points in this category.

Aligned SLO: 6

Class Participation
Ten percent of final grade

Class participation includes active engagement in discussions, activities, small group work, and collaborative learning. Participation reflects preparation for class, respectful interaction, and thoughtful contributions related to course content.

Aligned SLOs: 4, 6

Final Exam
Twenty percent of final grade

The final exam will be administered during the college scheduled final exam period. The exam will assess cumulative understanding of language and literacy development, key components of early literacy and the science of reading, culturally responsive practice, assessment, and application of course concepts discussed throughout the semester.

Aligned SLOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Generative AI Guidance
Academic integrity is required in all work. The use of generative artificial intelligence that misrepresents the originality and authenticity of a student's work is not permitted. Students may use generative AI tools for academic purposes only

with the explicit approval of the course instructor and must follow any guidelines provided.

Grading System

Letter Grade and Numeric Equivalents
A: 93 to 100

A minus: 90 to 92

B plus: 87 to 89

B: 83 to 86

B minus: 80 to 82

C plus: 77 to 79

C: 73 to 76

C minus: 70 to 72

D plus: 67 to 69

D: 63 to 66

D minus: 60 to 62

F: below 60

A grade of C or better is required to successfully complete this course and continue in the program.

Instructional Materials

Required textbook:
Required Textbook C. Vukelich, B.J. Enz, K.A. Roskos & J. Christie, (2020) Helping young children learn language and literacy: Birth through kindergarten, 5th Ed., Hoboken: Pearson.

(A copy of the textbook will be on reserve at the front desk of the Middletown Library)

Please see the bookstore website for information on purchasing textbooks and instructional materials.

Library Support: Chromebooks may be borrowed by any student by requesting one at the library's service desk. The College Libraries have selected textbooks for use in the library. Check them out at the library's service desk. Research databases, books, and other resources through the [SUNY Orange Library](https://sunyorange.edu/library/): https://sunyorange.edu/library/

Required equipment:
You will need a device and internet access to download, complete, and upload assignments to Brightspace.

Attendance Policy
Attendance is critical. Students are expected to attend and participate in all class meetings and activities.

You must be present for the full class period to be counted as attending.

If an absence is unavoidable and known in advance, email the instructor before class.

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain notes, handouts, and information from that class and to stay current in Brightspace.

Instructors shall not penalize students for absences for religious observance, military obligations, or jury duty. You should inform the instructor when you anticipate an absence for any of these reasons so that arrangements can be made for make-up examinations or other work.

Official Withdrawal from a Course
When a student finds it necessary to withdraw from one or more courses, they must submit an Add/Drop Form with appropriate signatures by the end of the 12th week or its equivalent (see Registration Calendar). A student who officially withdraws from a course between the 4th and 12th weeks or their equivalent will have the course appear on his/her transcript with a grade of W. For more information, visit Suny Orange Registrar
(https://sunyorange.edu/registrar/index.html) or email**:** registrar@sunyorange.edu

General Course Information
All written work must be typed. Unless otherwise specified, assignments should be double spaced in 12-point font.

All papers must include a heading with student name, date, course, and assignment title. Work submitted without a name may not be graded until identified.

Proper grammar and spelling are expected for college level writing.

Students should draft and save work in Word or Google Docs, then submit through Brightspace. Keep copies of all submissions until final grades are posted.

Students are responsible for the credibility and accuracy of sources used in assignments.

Recording of class lectures and discussions is not permitted without permission from the instructor.

Homework and Assignment Submission Policy
Weekly homework assignments are posted in Brightspace weekly folders. Homework is due by the posted due date. Submitting work on time is a form of professionalism and reflects the expectations of the teaching profession. Assignments must be submitted through Brightspace unless the instructor provides a different submission method.

If something comes up and you are having difficulty completing homework assignments, please contact the instructor as soon as possible so we can discuss options and supports.

Late Work Policy
Weekly assignments are designed to prepare you for class and should be completed by the due date. Late weekly assignments may receive reduced credit or a zero as stated in Brightspace.

Projects are due by the due date. Students should plan ahead and communicate early if a serious circumstance interferes with completion.

If you are absent, you are still responsible for submitting any work due by the deadline unless otherwise stated.

Cell Phone Usage Policy
Use of cellular phones or any other electronic communication device during class or exam sessions is prohibited unless expressly permitted by the instructor. If you must respond to an urgent communication, step into the hallway briefly and return promptly.

College Wide Policies and Resources
The following College wide policies and resources are provided for students. They also appear in the College Syllabus in Brightspace.

CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS (CSS)
SUNY Orange students have access to support services such as tutoring, learning skill development, and workshops included as part of their tuition, with no additional cost. The Center for Student Success provides a range of online and on campus support options. You can connect with a tutor for help with coursework, study skills, and staying organized. Appointments and drop ins are welcome. To book a session, access Orange Connect, or visit one of the Center locations. Consistent tutoring can lead to improved performance on assignments, exams, and overall course grades. Additionally, there are several academic labs that provide

extra support and online resources, including the Biology Learning Center, Math Lab, and the Reading Writing Center.

ORANGE CONNECT
Orange Connect is an online student engagement tool used to connect students to faculty, staff, and support services across campus. Please check your MySUNYOrange, email, and log into Orange Connect daily.

LIBRARY SUPPORT
The College Library services are available on campus and remotely to assist students. For questions and information on accessing library research, materials, resources, and the student Chromebook lending program through the SUNY Orange Library, please visit https://sunyorange.edu/library/.

WELLNESS CENTER
Students interested in health and or counseling services should call 341 4870 to schedule an appointment with a member of the Wellness Center Team. Visit https://sunyorange.edu/wellness/index.html or email wellnesscenter@sunyorange.edu for more information.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)
SUNY Orange is committed to making reasonable accommodations to assist individuals with disabilities in reaching their academic potential. If you have a disability that may impact your performance in this course and require accommodations, you must first register with the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS). You can reach the Office of Accessibility Services at 845 341 4642 or by email at accessibilityservices@sunyorange.edu.

TITLE IX
SUNY Orange is committed to maintaining a learning environment free from discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence, in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. For support or to file a report, please contact titleixcoordinator@sunyorange.edu.

OFFICIAL ACADEMIC EMAIL POLICY
The College issued email account is designated as the student's official email address. This will be used as the method of communication when administrative offices, academic departments, and faculty need to communicate with students.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
SUNY Orange regards academic integrity as a commitment to uphold ethical standards in all academic endeavors. Incidents of plagiarism, cheating, fabrication,

falsification, and multiple submissions are considered a breach of academic integrity. The use of generative artificial intelligence that misrepresents originality and authenticity will be considered a breach of academic integrity.

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
Students who have concerns about their academic performance in a course should consult with their instructor. Academic Grievance Procedures are available to students and can be found in the Student Handbook.

MAKE UP FOR CANCELED CLASSES
In the event that classes are canceled due to inclement weather or other unanticipated events, instructors will notify students how and when instruction time will be made up, as appropriate.

BRIGHTSPACE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT
The SUNY Online Help Desk is available to students and faculty for assistance with Brightspace distance learning questions. Phone 1 844 673 6786 press 1. Email SUNYOnlineHelp@suny.edu. Or submit a Brightspace Help Desk Ticket.
For assistance with other technical issues, SUNY Orange Technical Services phone 845 341 4749 and https://itservice.sunyorange.edu.

FACULTY retain the right to make changes to syllabi. In the event that changes are needed, syllabi will be updated and changes will be communicated by the instructor.

Faculty Right to Make Changes
Faculty retain the right to make changes to this syllabus. In the event that changes are needed, the syllabus will be updated and changes will be communicated by the instructor in class and through Brightspace.

Please see the College Syllabus for College-Wide Policies and Resources

College Syllabus Fall 2025

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extra support and online resources, including the Biology Learning Center (aka BATCAVERN), Math Lab, and the Reading/Writing Center. Please visit the CSS webpage for more information or speak with your instructor on how to access these resources.

ORANGE CONNECT:

Orange Connect is an online student engagement tool used to connect students to faculty, staff, and support services across campus. Instructors may provide feedback in Orange Connect that will help the student and advisor/pathway coach understand how a student is doing in a class, so that support can be provided if needed to facilitate student success. Please check your MySUNYOrange, email, and log into Orange Connect daily. To access Orange Connect, log into your MySUNYOrange and click the Orange Connect option next to your Gmail. Make sure to check it daily. Students should be sure to open any emails they receive from Orange Connect and follow the recommendations. Instructors may also recommend students to contact a specific campus resource. If an instructor makes a referral, students may also be contacted directly by this campus service. Additionally, through Orange Connect students can sign-up for individualized tutoring and pathway coach appointments and can access support throughout the campus "raise your hand" feature and services on the students Orange Connect home page.

LIBRARY SUPPORT:

The College Library services are available on campus and remotely to assist students! For questions and information on accessing library research, materials, resources, and the student Chromebook lending program through the SUNY Orange Library, please visit: https://sunyorange.edu/library/

The College Libraries are open on weekdays, semester hours are posted to the library's web site.

Middletown campus library phone 845-341-4855

WELLNESS CENTER:

Students interested in health and/or counseling services should call 341-4870 to schedule an appointment with a member of the Wellness Center Team. Visit https://sunyorange.edu/wellness/index.html or email wellnesscenter@sunyorange.edu for more information on accessing the Wellness Center services.

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SUNY Orange is committed to making reasonable accommodations to assist individuals with disabilities in reaching their academic potential. If you have a disability that may impact your performance in this course and require accommodations, you must first register with the Office of Accessibility Services

(OAS). Temporary academic accommodations may also be available to students who are recovering from an injury, serious illness, or medical procedure. Accessibility Services is responsible for coordinating classroom accommodations and other services for students with disabilities. Please note that classroom accommodations cannot be provided prior to your instructor's receipt of an Accommodations Notice from the Office of Accessibility Services. Since academic accommodations may require early planning and are not provided retroactively, please contact OAS as soon as possible. You can reach the Office of Accessibility Services at (845) 341-4642 or by email at accessibilityservices@sunyorange.edu

TITLE IX:
SUNY Orange is committed to maintaining a learning environment free from discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence, in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX protects all students from sex-based discrimination in any educational program or activity.

If you or someone you know has experienced discrimination, harassment, or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it.

For support or to file a report, please contact the Title IX Coordinator at: titleixcoordinator@sunyorange.edu

Additional information, policies, and resources are available on the Suny Title IX website (www.sunyorange.edu/titleix)

CELL PHONE USAGE POLICY:
Use of cellular phones or any other electronic communication device for any purpose during class or exam sessions is prohibited, unless expressly permitted by the instructor. (Faculty can detail out specific policies they will enforce in their courses, if needed).

OFFICIAL/ACADEMIC EMAIL POLICY:
For Degree-Seeking and non-degree seeking students, the College-issued email account (@sunyorange.edu) is designated as the student's official email address as it is validated by an authentication process. This will be used as the method of communication when administrative offices, academic departments and faculty need to communicate with students.

Electronic communication through the use of the college's learning management system (Brightspace) remains at the discretion of the instructor and should be communicated to the student in the course syllabus.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:
Per Academic Policy 4: SUNY Orange regards academic integrity as a commitment to uphold ethical standards in all academic endeavors. The College is dedicated to

ensuring that students develop the critical thinking skills, ethical judgment, and intellectual integrity necessary for academic and professional success. Academic integrity embodies the principles of honesty, fairness, responsibility, and accountability in every aspect of the academic experience; it demands the acknowledgment and citation of sources, ideas' originality, and information's ethical use.

Incidents of plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, falsification, and multiple submissions are considered a breach of academic integrity. Consequences include but are not limited to academic penalties, disciplinary action, or even legal action. The primary responsibility for recognizing these incidents rests with the faculty member.

When a breach of academic integrity has occurred, the faculty member shall advise the student of the action to be taken, including but not limited to procedures outlined in the Code of Student Conduct.

The use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) that misrepresents the originality and authenticity of a student's work will be considered a breach of academic integrity. This includes the unauthorized use of GenAI tools to generate content, complete assignments, or manipulate data without proper attribution. Students may use GenAI tools for academic purposes only with the explicit approval of the course instructor. In such cases, instructors shall provide guidelines and support to ensure proper understanding and application of GenAI in alignment with the course objectives.

ACADEMIC POLICIES & PROCEDURES:
Students who have concerns about their academic performance in a course should consult with their instructor. Academic Grievance Procedures are available to students and can be found in the Student Handbook: https://sunyorange.edu/studentservices/student_handbook.html

MAKE-UP FOR CANCELED CLASSES:
In the event that classes are canceled due to inclement weather or other unanticipated events, instructors will notify students how and when instruction time will be made up, as appropriate.

BRIGHTSPACE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT:
The SUNY Online Help Desk is available to students and faculty for assistance with Brightspace distance learning questions:

Choose any of these contact options to request help:
1. 1-844-673-6786   *Press 1
2. send an email to SUNYOnlineHelp@suny.edu
3. Submit a Brightspace Help Desk Ticket

For assistance with all other technical issues like MySUNYOrange, email, Banner, or other SUNY Orange related service:

SUNY ORANGE Technical Services:
1-845-341-4749 Phone and Chat Support available 24/7

ON-CAMPUS IT department hours
Monday - Friday 8am - 4pm EST

Suny IT support

STAYING CONNECTED:
Please visit the College's Staying Connected page that lists contact information for important College offices and support services.

Faculty retain the right to make changes to syllabi. In the event that changes are needed, syllabi will be updated, and changes will be communicated by the instructor.