

Early Childhood Education Fact Sheet

With a shortage of qualified Early Childhood (EC) educators across Alaska and the nation, UAA's programs meet the needs of *high demand* careers. The OEC is an easy entry to the university where students earn a workforce development certificate in infant and toddler development with only 18 credits. These credits lead into the AAS in Early Childhood Development (birth-age 8). The AAS then leads into the BA in Early Childhood Education as a 2 + 2 model. Both the OEC and the AAS qualify graduates for positions in child-care and other early education organizations. A BA with teacher licensure provides graduates with even more opportunities, including teaching in public schools PreK-3rd grades and other leadership roles in the field of early care and learning.

The Early Childhood programs are meeting needs of today's workforce while using innovative teaching strategies for tomorrow.

Highlights of Early Childhood Programs:

- **Pathways** – OEC > AAS > BA - Creates **multiple career pathways** for graduates to include positions in public schools, Early Head Start/Head Start Programs, military approved child-care facilities, tribally approved child-care systems, and early intervention programs such as Parents, Infants, and Children, the Infant Learning Program (ILP), and RurAL CAP.
- **Accreditation:** The AAS is nationally accredited by the **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)** through spring 2025. The BA will seek accreditation through both NAEYC and CAEP.
- **Licensure** – UAA's program will be the **only Pre-K through 3rd grade** initial licensure option in the State of Alaska.
- **Employment** - **100% of graduates who sought** employment in the Early Childhood field have been hired (past 7 years).
- **Early Literacy focus** – All of UAA EC programs have a strong emphasis in language and literacy development. The content is scaffolded with emphasis on development, foundations, theory, strategies, implementation, and assessment.
- **Field Experience** – All three programs emphasize real world practice with opportunities in childcare settings, public school settings, and community agencies including Head Start. Students who complete all three programs will have nearly **1000 hours of field experience**.
- **Delivery** - EC faculty have a strong commitment to serving the educational needs of our diverse student population with both **face-to-face and distance/hybrid** course options.
- **Diversity and Inclusion** – We take pride in our student population. In AY 2019-2020 the EC program was 57% non-white reflecting the larger Alaskan population.
- **Innovation and Learning** – Meeting needs for Alaska through Creativity, Communication, Collaboration, and Critical Thinking (21st Century Learning and Innovation 4C skills).

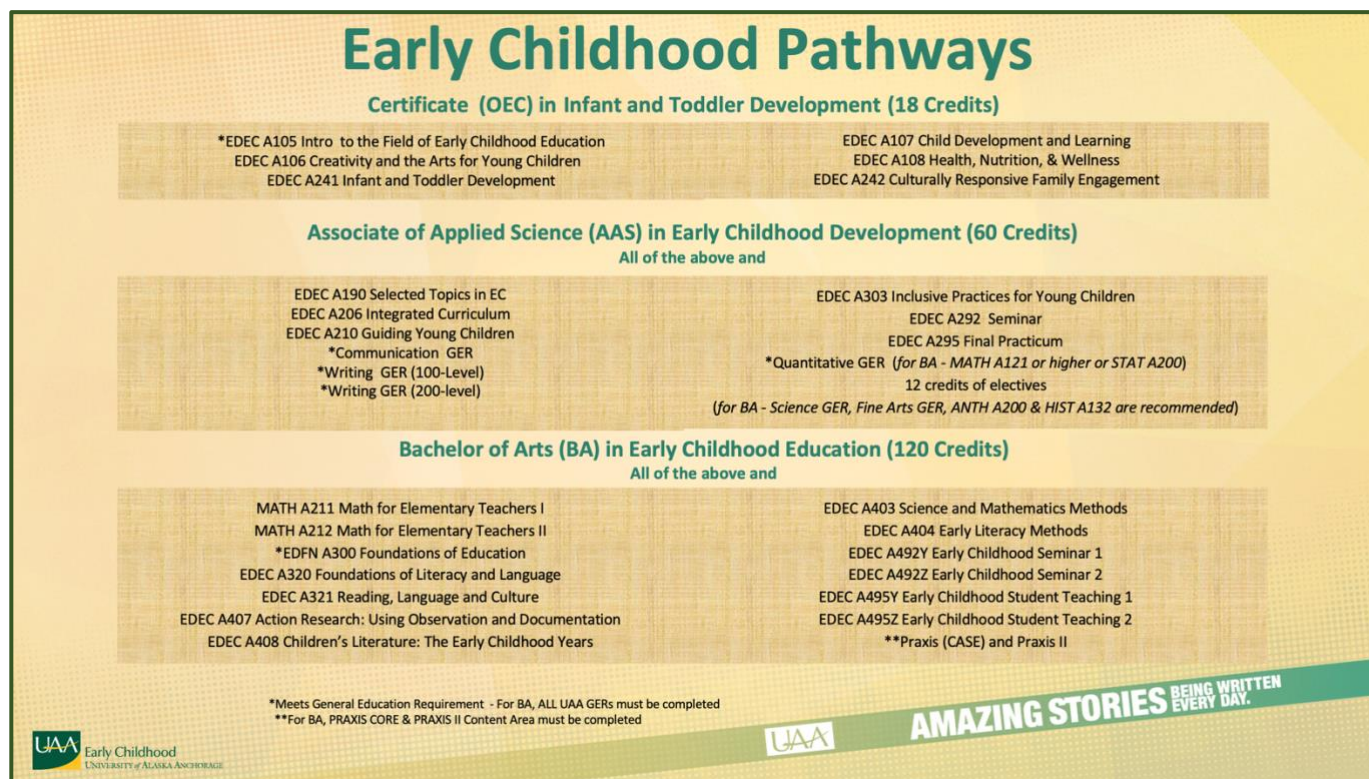


Figure 1: EC Pathways

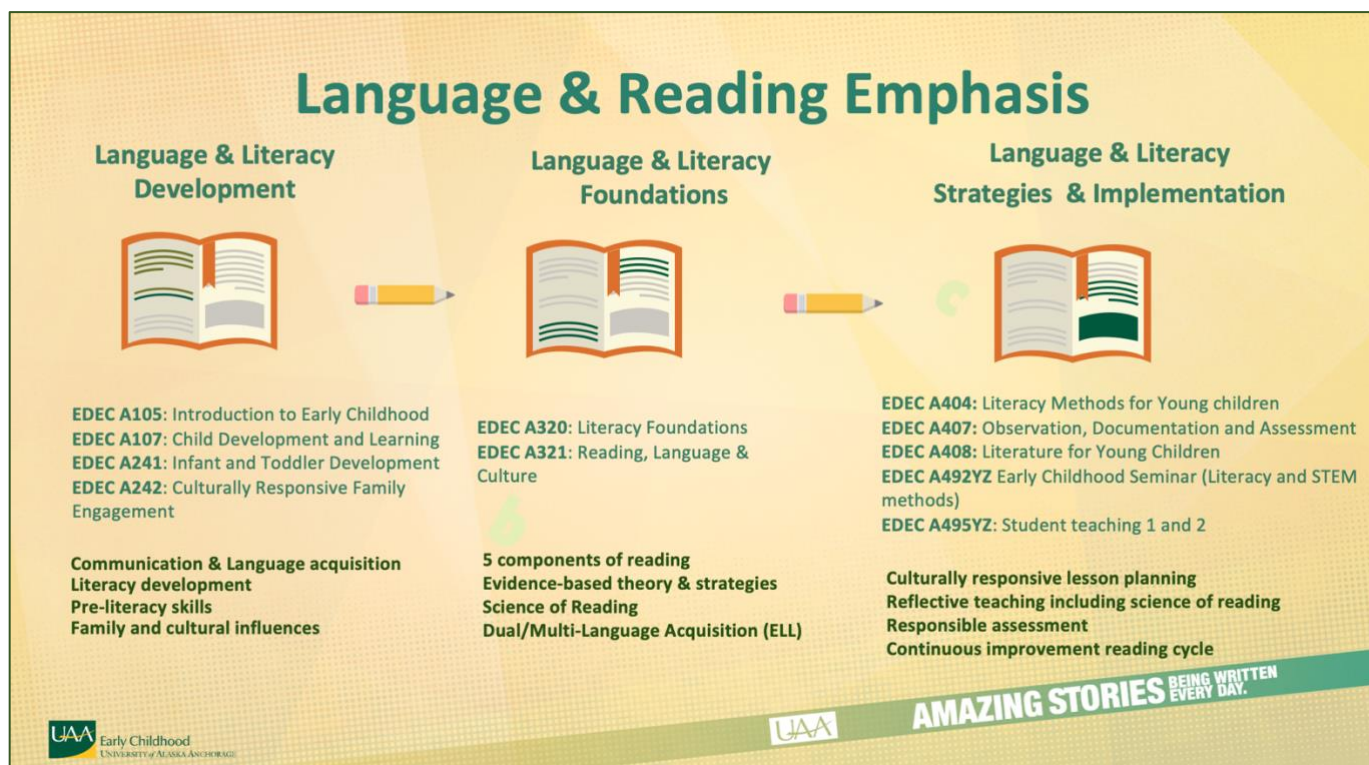


Figure 2: Language & Reading Emphasis

To learn more, go to our website, <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/school-of-education/programs/early-childhood-education.cshtml> or contact Dr. Hilary Seitz at hjseitz@alaska.edu

