

To: PSYC 317L-721 Child Development Students

From: Dr. Kris Dovgan

RE: Welcome!

Welcome to Child Development, PSYC 317L-721. The course begins on **December 13th, 2025** and ends on **January 16th, 2026**.

During this online asynchronous course, you will be examining the physical, intellectual, and socio-emotional aspects in the development of children from conception through middle childhood. This course is designed to assist students in exploring the various influences that shape children's development. We will be critically considering theories of development, and learning to identify skills and milestones, while applying this knowledge to real-life scenarios.

The course will be delivered online via Brightspace. Please take some time to explore our class site and familiarize yourself with the various resources available to you. Please be sure to review the syllabus and class schedule. You will watch pre-recorded lectures for each chapter and read the accompanying sections of the textbook. Each chapter has an associated chapter activity, and each unit has an associated exam review and exam. We have a lot of information to cover, and I pace you through the material. Throughout the course, an assignment or assessment is due almost every day. You will have to organize your time effectively in order to watch the lectures and complete the readings with enough time to submit the chapter activities. Paying attention to deadlines will be vital to your success in the course.

The course is divided into 4 units:

1. Foundations of Child Development (Theories, Genetics / Prenatal Development, and Birth)
2. Infancy and Toddlerhood (the “growing years” between 0-2 years old)
3. Early Childhood (the “playing years” between 2-6 years old)
4. Middle Childhood (the “school years” between 6-12 years old)

The textbook for this course is listed below. This can be purchased from the Marist bookstore or other online vendors. Please make sure that you have the textbook before class begins so that you are ready to begin your reading on the first day of class.

Berk, L. (2021). *Infants and Children: Prenatal through Middle Childhood*, 9th edition.
Sage. ISBN 9781071895115

You can learn more about me on our course site. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at any time at Kristen.Dovgan@marist.edu. I look forward to working with you this winter!