

# New Online Course

“Observing, Understanding, Responding, and Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect as Experienced by Children with Disabilities”

By

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## Course Description:

Students with disabilities are significantly more likely to experience child abuse and neglect (CA/N) than their nondisabled peers. Unfortunately, most parents of children with disabilities, and the professionals who work with them, are not prepared to observe, understand, respond, or prevent possible incidences of CA/N. This lack of preparation, combined with a lack of knowledge of existing CA/N related informational, curricular, and support resources increases the frequency, duration and impact of a child's CA/N experiences. This course is to address this lack of preparation and knowledge via an examination of the following seven questions:

1. What is CA/N, why does it occur and what impact does it have upon children?
2. What are the risk factors associated with the occurrence of CA/N and why does the presence of a disability increase the risk for CA/N?
3. Why are professionals hesitant to report suspected incidences of CA/N and how can these barriers be overcome?
4. What is the typical response pattern to reports of suspected instances of CA/N as experienced by children with and without disabilities and how can this response pattern be improved?
5. If CA/N is suspected, or confirmed, how should parents and professionals respond?
6. How can parents and professionals reduce the risk of a child experiencing CA/N, while simultaneously enhancing children's social, linguistic, and academic performance?

7. Where can parents of children with disabilities, and the professionals who work with them, go for CA/N related informational, curricular, support, and action?

### **Course Outcomes:**

Individuals who successfully complete this course will have the knowledge and technological skills needed to effectively:

- Observe, understand, and respond to possible instances of CA/N as experienced by children with, or without disabilities;
- Identify home and school based programs that are designed to protect children with disabilities from experiencing CA/N;
- Identify and share community, state, and national CA/N related resources and services; and
- Participate in an online community of learners that is aggressively working to reduce the occurrence and impact of CA/N as experienced by children with disabilities (<http://deafed-childabuse-neglect-col.wiki.educ.msu.edu/>).

### **Course Technology Requirements:**

This course will be carried out via the use of a combination of asynchronous and synchronous Web based technologies. These technologies require students to have consistent and easy access to a reliable computer (either PC, or MAC), a microphone enabled Web cam, and high speed (i.e., NOT dial up) Internet access. While course information and class discussions will be carried out via the use of an asynchronous course wiki (i.e., not tied to a specific day or time), students will be strongly encouraged to use Skype for one-on-one meetings with the course instructor, peers, and members of the CA/N community of learners, while iVisit will be used for small group conferences of up to eight individuals. Skype and iVisit access will be provided at no cost to students enrolled in the course.

### **Course Registration Details:**

Individuals can register for this course by going to the registration page of the Michigan State University, College of Education [online registration page](#), then registering either as either:

1. “in state” CEP 882, Section 732, 3 credits: “Life Long Education” students, or

2. **“out of state”** CEP 882: Section 733, 3 credits: “Life Long Education”  
students

Tuition for Lifelong Education students, persons interested in courses for professional development rather than degree applicability, is \$628.25 per credit for in-state students and \$670.75 for out-of-state students. Students who are residents of Michigan are eligible to be classified as in-state for tuition and fee purpose. All others will be considered out-of-state.

Interested individuals can also use the following contact information if additional assistance is needed.

Master of Arts in Education  
Michigan State University  
Academic Outreach Programs  
College of Education  
253 Erickson Hall  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1034

Phone: 517-355-1825

Fax: 517-432-2352

E-mail: [onlineed@msu.edu](mailto:onlineed@msu.edu)

Enrollment is limited to 25 individuals.

Please note that the registration deadline for this course has been extended beyond the posted date of 5/1/2010. Enrollment is limited to 25 individuals.