

**Texas A&M University- San Antonio**  
**Department of Educator and Leadership Preparation**  
**EDEC 4314 Cognitive Development**

**A. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

- Students will gain an understanding of cognitive developmental milestones and theoretical philosophies that enhance the understanding of professionals in early childhood careers.

**B. MAIN ASSIGNMENTS**

- Quizzes
- Journal posts
- Brain Architecture Map assignment
- Discussion boards
- Final exam

**B. LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

At the end of this course, the student will:

1. The student will be able to identify the basic structures of the brain and describe how the brain functions work to facilitate learning.
2. The student will be able to identify the factors that influence a child's cognitive development.
3. The student will be able to describe developmentally appropriate practices that promote the development of young children's conceptual knowledge.
4. The student will be able to identify environments that support the development of a child's cognitive capacity.

**C. LECTURE OR DISCUSSION TOPICS**

- Foundations of brain development, infant, toddler, preschool and Kindergarten brain development, theory of mind, technology, play, childcare quality, cognitive development, academic readiness.

**D. REQUIRED OR RECOMMENDED READINGS**

- Bergen, D., Lee, L., DiCarlo, C., & Burnett, G. (2020). *Enhancing brain development in infants and young children*. Teachers College Press.