Early Childhood Education

**Reference Books**
Reference books are a good place to begin your research. They often provide concise overviews of a topic, plus tables, graphs, illustrations, etc. A librarian will help you find appropriate resources on your subject. The following are examples of reference books that may provide a good basis or framework for your topic.

- *Current Diagnosis & Treatment: Pediatrics* Ref RJ 50 .C976 2011

**Circulating Books**
Circulating books can be checked out. They are located in the library’s tall book stacks. To browse for books dealing with various aspects of early childhood and early childhood education go to the following call number areas in the tall stacks:

- BF 721 – BF 723 Child psychology
- HQ 767.8 - HQ 777 Child development
- LB 1139 – LB 2822.7 Early childhood education
- RJ 131 – RJ 137 Child growth and development
- PZ 7 – 8 Children’s books

Use the library’s online catalog to find books on a specific topic. Try a Keyword search using some of the important words or phrases that describe your research topic such as, early childhood curriculum planning or preschool activity programs. For very broad topics, such as early childhood education or child development, you might want to do a Subject search to locate books with a substantial amount of information on a topic.

**Example:** Let’s say that you start your catalog search with a Keyword search on the topic of child development first five years. Only a small number of books are located. You might decide to broaden your search by changing to a Subject search and using the broader and more general topic of child development. More books will be located, and by looking at the table of contents and indexes in these books you will likely find information on the first five years of child development.
Databases

Magazine, newspaper and journal articles provide current information on your topic. Most full-text articles also include the MLA or APA citation. The following are a sample of the many databases that the library carries. Articles that you find while on-campus can be sent to your e-mail to be read or printed later. You can also search the databases from home or any off-campus location. You will be asked to enter your name and seven-digit college ID number.

Academic OneFile

The contents of thousands of magazines and academic journals can be searched through either the default Advanced Search or a Subject Guide Search. An Advanced Search will allow you to combine keywords to locate articles on specific aspects of a topic, such as, preschool children AND discipline or preschool AND songs. On the other hand, a Subject Guide Search can help you narrow a broad subject like early childhood education by providing a list of subdivisions such as curricula, etc. From the list of results, you can narrow your search even further by adding additional keywords in the “Search within results” box.

Infotrac Educators 200

This database contains articles covering multiple levels of education including topics for Early Childhood educators and Preschool teachers. Search this database in the same way you would search Academic OneFile, as described above.

Websites

Beware of the Web. If you are not an expert on your topic, don’t just search using Google or Wikipedia. Click on Find Websites on the left hand directory of the Library home page; then, click the arrow on the Best Websites tab. Listed here are subject directories to find websites that have been evaluated by subject specialists and library professionals. You may find fewer, but better quality sites.

Google is loaded with information – some excellent, some fraudulent. For help in evaluating what you find, go to Web Evaluation on the Library home page.

Some specific websites related to Early Childhood Education include:

- Educator’s Reference Desk http://eduref.org
- Early Childhood.com http://www.earlychildhood.com
- Early Childhood & Parenting Collaborative Info... http://ecapcrc.uic.edu/index.html
- Early Childhood Education & Activity Resources http://theideabox.com
- Natl. Assoc. for the Education of Young Children http://www.naeyc.org/

Always remember to ask a Librarian if you need help with:

- Developing a search strategy appropriate to your assignment and thesis.
- Evaluating your sources and finding additional research options.
- Citation Help