

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

Is Early Childhood Education and Care for me?

The field is for you if you ...

- Like to learn about children.
- Respect children and communicate well with them.
- Have a calm, reassuring manner.
- Are able to analyze situations based on knowledge.
- Have the ability to maintain composure in stressful situations.
- Have good judgment and common sense.
- Have stamina, good physical condition, good health and personal hygiene.
- Are energetic, spontaneous and have a good sense of humor.

What skills will I need for this field?

You will need to have ...

- Knowledge of the development of children of different ages.
- Knowledge about how to guide children's ways and behavior.
- A repertoire of early childhood activities and learning experiences.
- The ability to talk with children and their parents.
- The ability to plan classroom activities for children.

What is the work atmosphere like?

Indoors and outdoors, supervising 20 or less young children, full- or part-time hours with both early and late-day working hours. Usually there are a wide variety of activities sometimes with a high noise level. You will be standing or walking most of the time, lifting and carrying objects and children weighing 15 to 70 pounds.

What are my degree options?

Certificates

Child Care Center Administration
Early Childhood Education and Care
Family Day Care Provider
Infant, Toddler and Two-Year-Old Child Care
School-Age Care

Associate's Degree

Associate's in Applied Science (AAS)

Bachelor's Degree

Bachelor's degrees are available by transferring to four-year colleges and universities. For example: National-Louis University, Northern Illinois University, Elmhurst College and North Central College

Professional Certification

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services licensing standards require directors of day care centers to have at least two years of college including 18 semester credits (24 quarter credits) in courses related to child care and development from birth to age eight. Teachers must have two years of college with six semester credits (nine quarter credits) in childcare or one year of college with six semesters (nine quarter credits) in childcare plus experience. Assistants must have a high school diploma or equivalent, and work directly under the supervision of a childcare teacher. Family childcare providers may need a minimum number of nine quarter credits of childcare.

What are my career opportunities?

With experience, childcare workers may advance to supervisory or administrative positions in a childcare center. These positions may require additional training. Job growth in this area is expected to be very good.

What can I do with these degrees?

If you have completed ...

High School Diploma

Assistant Child Care Worker/Teacher, Family Child Care Provider, Nanny/Caregiver

Associate in Applied Science Degree

Assistant Director, Child Care Director, Child Care Worker/Teacher, Elementary or Special Education Aide, Head Start Teacher, Park District Teacher, Preschool Teacher

How can I prepare now?

Recommended courses ...

Math

Algebra (Applied Algebra preferred), Business Math

Science

Biology, Chemistry Foundations, Physical Science

Communications

Business Writing, Composition, Speech

Occupational Electives

Child Development and Psychology, Preschool Child

Recommended Supporting Electives

Desktop Publishing, Health, Keyboarding, Marriage and the Family Physiology Sociology

What about my articulated credit?

Check with your high school coordinator to see if you are eligible for articulated credit at College of DuPage.

Certificate

Assistant Child Care Worker/Teacher, Child Care Worker, Family Child Care Provider

Bachelor's Degree

Agency Specialist, Child Care Director, Educational Coordinator, Franchise, District Manager, Special Education Teacher, Teacher

What should I take in my first semester at C.O.D.?

ECEC 1101: Growth and Development of the Young Child

ECEC 1100: Introduction to Early Childhood Profession

ENG 1101: Composition I

PSYC 1100: General Psychology

Whom can I talk to for more information?

Health, Social and Behavioral Sciences Division
(630) 942-2495

For more information on the Associate in Applied Science Degree curriculum, see your program coordinator or go to www.cod.edu.