CAREER PROFILES

Early childhood educators and assistants:

Early Childhood Educators and Assistants plan, organize and implement programs for children between the ages of infancy and 12 years. Early Childhood Educators and Assistants provide care for infants and preschool- to school-age children under the guidance of early childhood educators. Early Childhood Educators and Assistants lead children in activities to stimulate and develop their intellectual, physical and emotional growth and ensure their security and well-being.

Wage/Salary Information:

$31,500 is the median annual salary found in local job-postings.

$17.49/hour is the median wage reported locally.

Commonly Listed Skills in Job Postings:

- Record keeping
- Team player
- Creativity
- Dependability
- Detail oriented
- High Energy
- Oral and written communication
- Flexible
- Problem solving
- Management experience
- Bilingual
- Self-motivated
- Manual dexterity
- Artistic
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Decision making skills
- Organizational skills
- Work ethics
- Work independently

Job Duties:

Early Childhood Educators develop and implement child-care programs that support and promote the physical, cognitive, emotional and social development of children and lead activities by telling or reading stories, teaching songs, taking children to local points of interest and providing opportunities to express creativity through the media of art, dramatic play,

music and physical activity. Early Childhood Educators plan and maintain an environment that protects the health, security and well-being of children. They assess the abilities, interests and needs of children and discuss progress or problems with parents and other staff members and observe children for signs of potential learning or behavioural problems and prepare reports for parents, guardians or supervisor. Early Childhood Educators also guide and assist children in the development of proper eating, dressing and toilet habits. They may also plan and organize activities for school-age children in child-care programs before and after regular school hours and may supervise and co-ordinate activities of other Early Childhood Educators and Assistants.

Early Childhood Educators and Assistants support early childhood educators in carrying out programs that promote the physical, cognitive, emotional and social development of children. Early Childhood Educators and Assistants engage children in activities by telling stories, teaching songs and preparing crafts, prepare snacks and arrange rooms or furniture for lunch and rest periods, and assist with proper eating, dressing and toilet habits. They submit written observations on children to Childhood Educators or Supervisors, maintain daycare equipment and assist in housekeeping and cooking duties, and attend staff meetings to discuss progress and problems of children. They may also assist Early Childhood Educators or supervisors in keeping records.

Working Conditions:

Early Childhood Educators and Assistants work in licensed daycare centres, infant and toddler centres, before- and after-school programs, nursery schools and preschool facilities. These job sites, which can be located in schools, community institutions or workplaces offering daycare to their employees, may vary widely in their nature and services.

Early Childhood Educators and Assistants may work varied hours. Preschool and school-based programs typically operate only during the school year, offering approximately nine months of work to both full- and part-time workers.

Daycare centres are generally open throughout the year and may have extended hours to accommodate the needs of working parents. For example, there is a growing demand for late-night child care options to accommodate the needs of parents who work shifts. To help these families, daycare centres may employ both full- and part-time staff whose shifts are staggered to cover the entire day.

Working with young children can be very rewarding. However, these occupations can also be physically tiring, as workers are required to stand, walk, bend and lift items throughout the work day, possibly resulting in back strain or other muscular problems. You children can get sick so exposure to illness is a possibility.

Workers may also become emotionally fatigued, since working with children requires a great deal of patience. Other challenges include anticipating and preventing problems, dealing with disruptive children, providing fair but firm discipline and communicating effectively with children and parents of various cultural backgrounds.

Career Pathways:

Progression to senior positions, such as Daycare Supervisor, is possible with several years of experience or with experience and advanced ECE qualification levels.

Early Childhood Educators and Assistants are employed in child-care centres, daycare centres, kindergartens, agencies for exceptional children and other settings where early childhood education services are provided. Supervisors of Early Childhood Educators and Assistants are included in this unit group. Below are potential career pathways for Early Childhood Educators and Assistants:

- Child Care Worker – Daycare
- Child Care Worker Assistant
- Daycare Helper
- Daycare Supervisor
- Daycare Worker
- Early Childhood Assistant
- Early Childhood Education Worker
- Early Childhood Educator – Preschool
- Early Childhood Educator (E.C.E.)
- Early Childhood Program Staff Assistant
- Early Childhood Supervisor
- Preschool Helper
- Preschool Supervisor

Check out more possible career pathways on WEexplore.

Education and Training Pathways:

If you're interested in becoming an early childhood educator or assistant, you can acquire training/education locally at any of the following institutions.

St. Clair College:

Early Childhood Education

Admission/Eligibility Requirements: OSSD with the majority of courses at College (C), University (U), University/College (M), or Open (O) level plus:

- Grade 12 English – ENG4U, ENG4C, EAE4C, or EAE4U.

Academic Credential: Two Year – Ontario College Diploma

Professional Certification: N/A

Attendance: In-person

Full-time or Part-time: Full-time

Program Length: 2 year (Also delivered in 1 year accelerated program format)

Program Cycle: September

Program Cost:

- Year 1: $4,149.38
- Year 2: $4,007.01
- Total: $8,156.39

OSAP Eligible: Yes

Location: 201 Riverside Drive West, Windsor, N9A 5K4

For more information on this program, please visit:

http://www.stclaircollege.ca/programs/postsec/ece/

Disclaimer: *The educational institution reserves the right to change information without notice, and may result in discrepancies between their information and the information presented above. If any errors are found, please report them to info@workforcewindsoressex.com.*