



# **Early learning. How can I become an early childhood educator?**

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**212 group**

**The Early Learning and Child Care major in the Bachelor of Child Studies degree program, provides the knowledge and skills to adopt a variety of professional roles and gain meaningful employment in the field. You will learn how to create a safe and stimulating play environments for children (infancy to age 12), engage in program and curriculum design, work with children and families, and collaborate with professionals in a variety of community settings.**





## **Practical experience**

**Throughout the four-year program, experiential learning components allow you to put classroom theory into practice and gain valuable skills to support your future career. Community-based practicums bring classroom and fieldwork learning together and prepare you for the workforce or graduate and professional studies.**

**You will gain fundamental knowledge and skills in:**

- ✓ child development**
- ✓ learning through play**
- ✓ curriculum/program development and implementation**
- ✓ nutrition and health**
- ✓ communication and collaboration with children, families and community members**
- ✓ creating responsive learning environments**

## **Career choices**

**Graduates are in high demand, and you will find a variety of work in early learning programs; child care and kindergarten programs, family childcare and school age care agencies, parent link and family resource centres. Your future career might be in:**

- Early Childhood Education (ECE)** — with a solid understanding of how children learn, you can co-construct curriculum to help children grow and develop. You will primarily be working with children (birth to age 12), families and communities.
- Special and Inclusive Education** — support children with exceptionalities and their families by providing learning opportunities, assistance and resources.
- Leadership in Early Learning and Child Care programs** — provide leadership to frontline practitioners and develop programs to support them in having a positive impact on children, youth and families.

**Early Childhood Educators** take on the responsibility of caring for and nurturing children in a safe and secure environment, using guiding techniques to improve the child's self-control, self-confidence and self esteem and lead the child to be independent and believe in themselves.





**In most states, an early childhood educator works with children from birth to third grade or approximately age eight. This teacher works with students in public or private school settings, at elementary schools of all kinds.**



# How to Become an Early Childhood Educator?



*Since teaching younger children requires a specialized set of skills, educators working with students in early childhood typically begin their careers by earning a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, child development, or a closely-related area of study. In order to qualify graduates for teacher licensure, most states require that such a program be approved by the state board of education for teacher preparation.*

**For traditional students pursuing a bachelor's degree, the typical process is as follows:**

- ☐ Complete a teacher preparation program in early childhood education that is approved by your state's board of education.**
- ☐ Complete a student teaching practicum in an early childhood program.**
- ☐ Take your state's required tests for educators.**
- ☐ Apply to your state's board of education for a teaching certificate or license.**
- ☐ Begin applying to open early childhood teacher positions.**

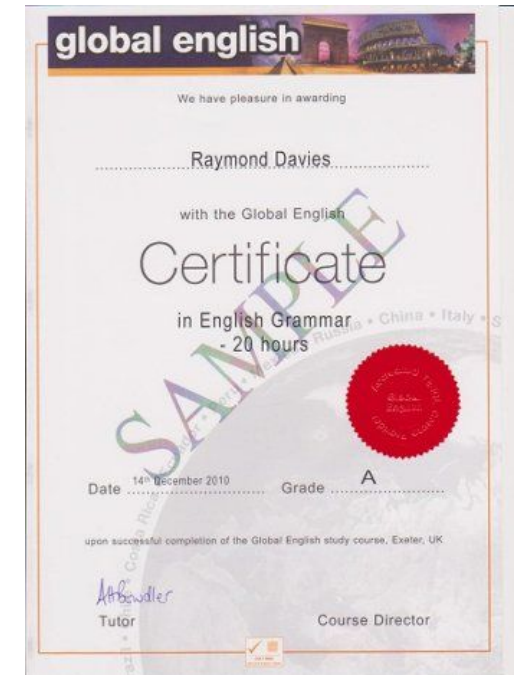
**Once accepted into a bachelor's degree program, students will typically spend the first two years of study earning general education credits. The second two years of the bachelor's degree program will focus on courses in childhood development, methods of teaching children, and theories of learning.**





**Students can expect to complete at least one internship or practicum working with small children in a classroom setting. Many early childhood education programs include several separate classroom engagements to prepare teachers for the demands of the job.**

**After graduating,  
prospective early  
childhood teachers  
will be ready to  
become licensed to  
teach and earn their  
early childhood  
endorsement through  
testing.**





**Previously licensed teachers, or those who already earned a bachelor's degree in another subject, may be able to add an early childhood endorsement to a teaching certificate by completing a master's program in early childhood education or development. A master's degree in early childhood education provides opportunities to gain a deeper understanding of learning in childhood and a more developed skillset for working with small children.**





**THE END**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION