

# Preschool Teacher and Childcare

# Careers

**N**urturing and teaching preschool children, those who are five years old and younger, is the job of preschool teachers and child care workers. Found in child care centers, preschools and family child care homes, these workers play an important role in a child's development by caring for the child when the parents are at work or away for other reasons. Preschool teachers and child care workers plan developmentally appropriate activities that stimulate the children's physical, emotional, intellectual and social growth. They help children explore their interests, develop their talents and independence, build self-esteem and learn social skills.

Preschool teachers and child care workers must work in two different worlds – the child's and the parents'. At the same time that they create a safe, comfortable environment in which children can learn and grow, they must also assess each child's progress and discuss the children's progress and needs with the parents.

Most preschool teachers and child care workers perform a combination of care and teaching duties. Through these activities, preschool teachers and child care workers provide opportunities for children to grow and develop to their potential.

## Job Outlook

Employment of childcare workers is projected to increase about as fast as the average for all occupations through the year 2010. The number of children under five years of age is expected to rise gradually over the projected 2000-10 period. The proportion of children enrolled in full- or part-time in childcare and preschool programs is likely to continue to increase, spurring demand for additional childcare workers.

## Earnings

Preschool teachers in public schools who have advanced certification (usually a bachelor's degree or higher) generally have salaries comparable to kindergarten and elementary school teachers, which are about \$28,000. Preschool teachers in privately funded child care centers usually earn less than this. Child care administrators may earn up to \$20,000, with average earnings for child care workers closer to the \$12,000 to \$15,000 range. Earnings of self-employed child care workers vary depending on the hours worked, number and ages of the children, and the location.

## Related Careers

- Elementary Education
- Human Services



# Preschool Teacher and Childcare Career

## Educational Opportunities in Preschool Teaching and Child Care at LCCC

### *Associate of applied science in teacher education in early childhood education*

This program provides its graduates with employment opportunities in pre-kindergarten programs that work with children ages 6 weeks to age five. (Public/Private Preschool, Day Care, Head Start).

The ECED courses included in the degree program have embedded within them educational theory, best practices, and the ability to be an active participant in the practical application of what you are learning in the classroom. The degree has two opportunities for students to be placed in early childhood centers for an entire semester to work directly with children by creating lesson plans, working one on one with children, and eventually taking on teacher duties and responsibilities.

In addition, there is an associate of arts in early childhood education for those who desire to transfer to a four-year institution.

### *Certificates of Completion*

There are currently four certificates of completion in early childhood education: These certificates require from 16-18 credits to complete.

- Early Childhood Education
- Administration Concentration\*  
(For those wishing to be a director)
- Infant and Toddler
- After School Care (Children ages 5-11)

*\*To complete this certificate all students must have completed two years of documented teaching at the pre-K level.*

Many LCCC students choose to study on a part-time basis. All of the courses in these certificates of completion transfer into the associate of applied science in early childhood education degree (exceptions are: Infant and Toddler practicum and After School Care practicum).

### *Early Childhood Education Certificate of Completion*

This program provides students with the specialized information necessary to work as a teacher or teacher aid in a preschool, childcare or in-home setting.

### *Administration Concentration Certificate of Completion*

This program meets the Ohio Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS) licensing requirements to be an administrator in an early childhood center. Courses offered as part of the certificate provide basic information relative to developmental characteristics, curriculum, administration, crisis intervention, staffing and budgets.

### *Infant and Toddler Certificate of Completion*

This program is designed to meet the needs of teachers who wish to work with infants and toddlers. Besides education coursework students are required to complete a practicum where they will be placed in an infant and toddler center in the community to complete 50 hours of hands-on training.

### *After School Care Certificate of Completion*

This program specializes in working in before and after school programs with children ages 5-11. Besides education coursework students are required to complete a practicum where they will be placed in an center with a before and after school program in the community to complete 50 hours of hands on training.

## Educational opportunities through LCCC's University Partnership

### **Ashland University**

#### *Bachelor of science in education Early Childhood Intervention Specialist (Grades Pre K-3)*

The Ashland education program is based on current research, effective practice and dynamic collaborative relationships among Ashland faculty, pre-K through 12th-grade teachers and administrators. The program is implemented through diverse experiences in university classes, field/clinical experiences, model sites and professional development centers.

#### *Bachelor of science in education Early Childhood Licensure (Grades Pre K-3)*

The Ashland education program is based on current research, effective practice and dynamic collaborative relationships among Ashland faculty, pre-K through 12th-grade teachers and administrators. The program is implemented through diverse experiences in university classes, field/clinical experiences, model sites and professional development centers.

#### *Bachelor of science in education Middle Childhood Licensure (Grades 4-9)*

The Ashland education program is based on current research, effective practice and dynamic collaborative relationships among Ashland faculty, pre-K through 12th-grade teachers and administrators. The program is implemented through diverse experiences in university classes, field/clinical experiences, model sites and professional development centers.

## About Lorain County Community College

Lorain County Community College continues to experience enrollment growth because attending LCCC is the most economical way to reach educational goals that help graduates become valuable players in the future economic growth of the county and region. Because of the variety and quality of learning opportunities LCCC provides, enrollment has grown 78 percent since 2000.

Lorain County Community College, which opened in 1963, is one of Ohio's leading colleges delivering credit programs at its Elyria campus and outreach centers in downtown Elyria, Lorain, Wellington and Brunswick. Plus more than 200 courses are offered via distance-learning education options, and the Associate of Arts degree can be completed entirely online.

Students can choose from more than 80 educational programs. Students can complete the first half — and sometimes more — of a bachelor's degree through LCCC's University Partnership, which brings eight universities to the LCCC campus offering 40 bachelor's and master's degree programs. Students can upgrade, retrain and improve current life skills.

In addition to providing a great education for those who enter college with aspirations of a degree, LCCC helps those who have changed their career goals, who want to broaden their horizons, and who want to return to work. LCCC provides learning and training for those who want to move up but find they need new or improved skills for the kind of professional opportunities they seek.

LCCC faculty is recognized locally and nationally for their work as professors and in other areas. They all have advanced degrees and real world experience and understand their primary responsibility at LCCC is to teach classes.

LCCC is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, which is the regional accrediting authority for Ohio colleges and universities. Since opening its doors, LCCC has served more than 300,000 people. More than six million students enroll annually in credit courses at America's community colleges, representing about 46 percent of all students in higher education and about 56 percent of all first-time college entrants.



**Lorain County  
Community College**



**The University  
Partnership**

*of Lorain County Community College*

1005 North Abbe Road  
Elyria, OH 44035  
[www.lorainccc.edu](http://www.lorainccc.edu)