Early Childhood Educator



Whether you want to be a teacher or just enjoy working with young children, the Early Childhood Educator program at Collin College could be the perfect starting point for you. The Early Childhood Educator certificate and degree programs are designed to prepare you for entry-level positions working with young children and their families and/or to study at a four-year university. The program emphasizes a developmental approach to promote the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive growth of children. You will acquire knowledge and skills that prepare you to create developmentally appropriate, nurturing environments.

Career Outlook

Preschool or Childcare Administrator Avg. Starting Salary: \$40,100 Average Salary: \$58,700 Projected Job Growth: 16.3%

Preschool Teacher Avg. Starting Salary: \$50,200 Average Salary: \$63,300 Projected Job Growth: 12.4% Teacher's Assistant Avg. Starting Salary: \$21,900 Average Salary: \$31,600 Projected Job Growth: 11.7%

Childcare Worker Avg. Starting Salary: \$23,800 Average Salary: \$28,800 Projected Job Growth:16.7%

Data for Collin County obtained from JobsEQ and O*Net Note: Average salary for occupation as of 2023 and job growth projected from 2023-2030.

About the Program

Collin's Early Childhood Educator program is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The Child Development Associate (CDA) program provides performance-based training of childcare professionals who work with children from birth through age 8. Coursework is applicable as in-service training for teachers, administrators, nannies, and family day home providers.

Collin College's Lab School

The Child Development Lab School, located on the Plano Campus, is NAEYC accredited and a Four-Star Certified Texas Rising Star program. It operates as a training facility and a model program where college students have opportunities for directed observation and supervised learning experiences in which knowledge and theory can be directly applied.

Collin College is an equal opportunity institution and provides educational and employment opportunities without discrimination on any basis protected by applicable law.

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Choose Your Education

Associate of Applied Science – Early Childhood Educator (0-8 years) (60 credit hours)

Level 1 Certificates -

Early Childhood Administrator* (19 credit hours)

Child Development Associate (CDA) (16 credit hours)

Level 2 Certificate – Early Childhood Educator (0-8 Years)* (30 credit hours)

Occupational Skills Awards –

Early Childhood Administrator Child Development Associate (CDA) Special Educator (0-8 years) (9 credit hours each)

* Starting Fall 2024

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Visit www.collin.edu/department/childdevelopment/ or scan the QR code for more information.