

Honolulu Community College

University of Hawaii

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HUMAN SERVICES

(Early Childhood Education)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: A program designed for people interested in working with young children. The two-year degree prepares students for employment as teachers in private early childhood programs. Field experience is an important feature of the program. Criminal history checks are a workplace requirement in early childhood education and care settings, therefore, a student must pass a criminal history check before enrolling in work practicum courses.

- **DEGREES OFFERED:** Certificate of Competence, Certificate of Completion, Certificate of Achievement, Associate in Applied Science Degree
- **RECOMMENDED PREPARATION:** High school English and basic math
- **COST:** Books - \$200 - \$300 per semester; \$50 - \$75 per semester for additional course materials
- **TECHNICAL STANDARDS:** Can be found at <http://tech.honolulu.hawaii.edu/earlyed>

THE OCCUPATION

DESCRIPTION: Early Childhood educators provide care and learning experiences for children from birth to age 8. They work in preschools, childcare centers, nursery schools, and before and after school child care programs. Teachers plan and prepare curriculum materials and activities appropriate for the age span of the children within the group. They help children build self-confidence, explore interests, develop independence, and learn how to behave with others. They may read aloud, sing songs, organize games, and teach arts and crafts. They maintain discipline and supervise daily routines including eating, clean up, and rest periods.

SKILLS AND APTITUDES NEEDED: Must enjoy working with children; interest in child development. Ability to communicate and relate well to children and adults; creative, patient, emotionally stable, and compassionate.

WORK SETTING: Indoors and outdoors; noisy environment. Early Childhood programs may be in churches, workplaces, or buildings used exclusively for children. Some outdoors work, supervising play periods or field trips. Most childcare centers operate 10-12 hours a day, 5 days a week.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS: Much time is spent sitting on the floor, standing, walking, bending, stooping, and lifting; may be exposed to illnesses. Must be constantly alert, anticipate and be prepared to resolve conflicts among children. Work may be physically and emotionally tiring.

EMPLOYERS: Childcare centers, preschools, recreation programs, community organizations, church-related programs, school- or employer-sponsored centers, and self-employment.

CAREER LADDER: ENTRY LEVEL: Teacher's Aide, Recreation Specialist. ADVANCEMENT: Lead Teacher; Supervisor; Administrator; Preschool Director or Principal; Coordinator.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES: Balance of beginners and balance to slight shortage of experienced workers. Outlook depends on economic conditions, public and private funding, expansion of staffing and facilities, legislative support for childcare and early education, demand for childcare services, and replacement needs. Locally and nationally, employment is expected to grow faster than average through the year 2014.

WAGES: Earnings for beginners range from minimum wage to \$6-\$8 an hour, and experienced workers may earn around \$11-\$15 an hour or more.