Careers in Child Development
Exploring Employment Opportunities
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Career Cluster

- Human Services
- Programs of Study/Career Pathways
  - Consumer Services
  - Counseling & Mental Health Services
  - Early Childhood Development & Services
  - Family & Community Services
  - Personal Care Services
Goals

- Something to work for
- Clear ideas, plans, or purposes
- Dreams
- Vision
- Short term
- Long term
Long Term vs. Short Term Goals
Interests, Aptitudes, and Abilities

In selecting a career, keep in mind:

- what do you like to do
- your natural abilities or talents
- what you know how to do well
Employment

- Job growth will increase by 20% between 2010 and 2020
- Parents will need childcare while they work
- Demand for childcare workers is expected to grow
Basic Requirements

- Vary from state to state
- Minimum of a high school diploma
- Experience
- Continued education preferred
Education and Training

Begin in High School and enroll in:

- Principles of Human Services
- Child Development
- Counseling and Mental Health
- Practicum in Human Services
Certificate Programs

Available:
- Child Development Associate (CDA)
- Child Care Professional (CCP)
- Texas Director’s Certificate
- Online College Credit Eligible CDA Certificate

Involve:
- coursework
- observations
- hands-on activities
- safety and sanitation
- work experience
Associate’s Degree Programs

- Offered by many colleges and universities
- Associate Degrees available in:
  - Child Development
  - Social Work
- Completed in two years
- Offer hands-on practice
Bachelor’s Degree Programs

- Required preparation for professional jobs
- Usually take 4 years to complete
- Bachelor’s Degrees available in:
  - Elementary education
  - Secondary education
  - Postsecondary education
- Require observations
- Student teaching
Entry-Level Training

- Part-time, entry-level job
- Basic training and experience
- On the job training
- Offer flexible hours
- Often work around school schedule
Employability Skills Needed

- Communication and teamwork
- Positive attitude
- Willingness to learn
- Technology skills
- Math skills
- Analyzing and problem solving skills
- First Aid and CPR preferred
Continued Education

- Learning does not stop after completing a program
- You must keep up with current rules and regulations in the industry
- Continue updating your skills:
  - additional certificate programs
  - conferences
  - educational opportunities
  - meetings
  - seminars
  - webinars
Entrepreneurship Opportunities

Advantages
- Ownership
- Job satisfaction
- Earning potential

Disadvantages
- Financial risk
- Competition
- No guarantees
Obtaining Employment

- Professional employment portfolio
  - Resume
  - Certifications
  - Record of skills attained
  - Letters of reference
- Make sure to accurately complete the job application
- Practice interview skills
Once you have secured employment, be sure to:

- arrive to work on time
- work responsibly
- work safely
- respect the business
- maintain a positive attitude
- complete your assigned tasks
Terminating Employment

If you must quit your job, be sure to follow these steps:

- Provide employer with at least two weeks notice
- Provide employer with a written letter of resignation which should include:
  - reason for leaving
  - statement thanking employer for experience
  - your offer to train new employee
Careers in Child Development

- Adult Literacy and GED Teachers
- Career and Technical Education Teachers
- Childcare Workers
- Dieticians and Nutritionists
- Fitness Trainers and Instructors
- Health Educators
- High School Teachers
- Kindergarten and Elementary School Teachers
- Librarians
- Library Technicians and Assistants
- Mental Health Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapist
- Middle School Teachers
- Occupational Therapists
- Preschool and Childcare Center Directors
- Preschool Teacher
- Psychiatric Technicians and Aides
- Psychologists
- Recreational Therapists
- School and Career Counselors
- Social Workers
- Special Education Teachers
- Speech Language Pathologists
- Teacher Assistants
- Substance Abuse and Behavior Disorders Counselors
Questions
References/Resources

Textbook:

Websites:
- Association for Childhood Education International
  Each child possesses a unique set of gifts and talents. Educators and others invested in the education of children should value each child as a unique and special individual.
  [http://www.acei.org](http://www.acei.org)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics
  Exploring career information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics
  [http://www.bls.gov/k12/](http://www.bls.gov/k12/)
- Child Welfare League of America
  CWLA is a powerful coalition of hundreds of private and public agencies serving vulnerable children and families since 1920. Their expertise, leadership and innovation on policies, programs, and practices help improve the lives of millions of children in all 50 states.
  [http://www.cwla.org](http://www.cwla.org)
References/Resources

Websites:

- National Association for the Education of Young Children
  Provide resources for Early Childhood Professionals to improve their practice through professional development, allowing them to grow in the field.
  http://www.naeyc.org

- Occupational Outlook Handbook
  The nation’s premier source for career information
  http://bls.gov/ooh/

- Professionalism
  An article conveying no matter the industry – from customer service to an office job to construction and the trades – all of these jobs have one thing in common: in order to succeed and move ahead, you need to demonstrate professionalism-page 114.
  http://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/youth/softskills/Professionalism.pdf

- TexasCARES
  This website includes a self assessment, skills transferability, exploring work, career clusters and occupation information.

- The Occupational Outlook Handbook Teacher’s Guide
  To assist the students with their career search.
  http://www.bls.gov/ooh/About/Teachers-Guide.htm