
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR (A.C.A., non-restricted certified trade)

WORK DESCRIPTION

What would I be doing?

Early Childhood Educators plan and organize activities for pre-school children and lead children in these activities to encourage their intellectual, emotional and physical growth. In general, the Early Childhood Educators may perform some or all of the following duties:

- develop daily activities for children
- lead children in activities by telling or reading stories, teaching songs, demonstrating the use of simple musical instruments, preparing craft materials and demonstrating their use and taking children to local points of interest
- guide children in the development of proper eating, dressing and toilet habits
- observe children for possible learning disabilities or emotional problems
- discuss progress and problems with parents
- learn new teaching methods

The workplace could be noisy. Most workers in this trade work a standard 40-hour week.

PLACE OF WORK

Who needs Early Childhood Educators?

- child-care centres or facilities
- pre-school sections of hospitals and schools
- they may be self-employed

CONDITIONS OF WORK

An Early Childhood Educator Trade is a non-restricted certified trade.

A person may or may not have a valid Certificate of Qualification or be registered as an apprentice to work in the trade but apprenticeship is strongly recommended. An apprenticeship **may** be paid wages.

SALARIES/WAGES

The salary depends on the employer, years of experience, and level of training. In unionized places the wages and conditions of work are negotiated collectively.

<p><i>In the Elgin, Middlesex and Oxford area, full-time Early Childhood Educators can earn \$ 8.08 - \$14.75 per hour , averaging \$11.20 per hour</i></p>

(Over)

PROSPECTS of EMPLOYMENT in the Elgin, Middlesex and Oxford area

RATING: *fair - increasing*

New jobs are expected to be concentrated in the private sector.

APPRENTICESHIP IN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR TRADE

- takes about 3 years or 6 000 h, including 720 h of post secondary, in-school training; prior education and experience may shorten the time to complete all the competencies
- must complete apprenticeship to receive a Certificate of Apprenticeship
- there is no Certificate of Qualification in this trade
- Interprovincial Trade Certification (Red Seal) is not available in this trade

In-School Education:

An OYAP student must be 16 years old and completed Grade 10 (or equivalent).

Otherwise, all apprenticeship applicants must successfully complete Grade 12 (OSSD) or equivalent. The following competencies are valuable:

English	<i>Communication and</i>
Mathematics	<i>planning skills,</i>
Social Science	<i>creativity, patience</i>

OYAP students must be full-time students in high school and those who obtain apprenticeships will complete the apprenticeship curriculum in college or an approved Training Delivery Agent.

Specific skills learned in school are: sanitation, personal and client safety, basic communication, calculations, conflict resolution, counseling, life-skills, first aid or CPR, child care, child development.

On the Job Training

- As a high school Cooperative Education credit (towards O.S.S.D.), learning is connected to one of the school subjects.
- The apprentices must follow a program in the **Apprenticeship Training Standards** book that is given to them in the workplace when they register. As each competency is achieved the employer signs it off.

OPPORTUNITY TO GROW

A Certificate as a journeyperson is not required to start working as an Early Childhood Educator but registration as an apprentice is recommended. After becoming a journeyperson a worker may:

- become a supervisor
- start own day care business
- work in related areas or occupations

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

- Mental Health Worker
- Teacher Assistant, Child and Youth Worker, Worker in a Group Home

CONTACT INFORMATION

Whom should I call?

School Guidance/Co-Op Office

Apprenticeship Office 519 675 7788

London: 1 800 265 1050

Apprenticeship web: www.edu.gov.on.ca

EMOLTB web site: www.localboard.on.ca

Training Hotline: 1 800 387 5656

Union: