

EDUCATION

Early Childhood Education and Administration

Coursework in the Early Childhood Education Department emphasizes the theoretical and practical knowledge needed for working with culturally diverse children birth through age eight. The department offers a variety of certificates and degrees depending on age groups and needs of children. The various certificate and degree programs provide developmentally-based courses designed to teach students how to provide competent care and interactions for children.

College students in our Early Childhood Education program will experience a comprehensive program that prepares them to work with young children, birth to age 6. Our courses reflect the idea that children build knowledge through the experience of play. We emphasize the importance of understanding how children develop at different ages and of the cultural, linguistic, and social influences that shape them. At the core of working with young children and their families is a positive and reciprocal relationship. Within that relationship, we come to see the child as a unique individual with unique needs and interests which is the foundation of an effective early childhood professional. Throughout the program students will learn about developmentally appropriate practices, plan open-ended creative experiences, observe and document children's play, and implement a whole curriculum based on the interests and needs of the children with whom they work. Another important aspect of working effectively with children and families is the practice of anti-bias curriculum. Students will learn specific practices to ensure inclusiveness for all children and their families. Our college classes require a high level of rigor which prepares students to enter the workforce and collaborate with colleagues. The faculty works closely with students, and mentors them throughout the program.

Careers related to Early Childhood Education

The following are possible careers which relate to working with young children and supporting families-

- Infant toddler or Preschool teacher, Private or Public Childcare programs
- Transitional Kindergarten or Elementary school teacher
- Special needs aide/paraprofessional in a preschool
- Behavior Interventionist
- Preschool Program Director or Site Supervisor
- Department of Education –Quality Start OC
- Zero to Three – Field Specialist provides training and assistance to Head Start/Early Head Start programs
- Child Life Specialist – works with children in a hospital setting
- College Instructor
- Leader in recreation programs
- Before and After school care
- Education Coordinator
- Parent Educator and/or Parent-Child Educator
- Children's Home Society – Resource and referral specialist
- Community Care Licensing Analyst
- Behavior Interventionist
- Speech & Language Pathologist

Department Contact Information

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Early Childhood department website (http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/academics/divisions/consumer_health/family_consumer_science/early_childhood_education/Pages/default.aspx)

- Associate Preschool Teacher, Certificate of Achievement (<https://catalog.cccd.edu/orange-coast/pathways/teaching-education/education/associate-preschool-teacher-certificate-achievement/>)
- Early Childhood Administration, Associate in Science Degree (<https://catalog.cccd.edu/orange-coast/pathways/teaching-education/education/early-childhood-administration-associate-science-degree/>)
- Early Childhood Administration, Certificate of Achievement (<https://catalog.cccd.edu/orange-coast/pathways/teaching-education/education/early-childhood-administration-certificate-achievement/>)
- Early Childhood Education, Associate in Science Degree for Transfer (AS-T) (<https://catalog.cccd.edu/orange-coast/pathways/teaching-education/education/early-childhood-education-associate-science-degree-transfer-ast/>)
- Elementary Teacher Education, Associate in Arts Degree for Transfer (AA-T) (<https://catalog.cccd.edu/orange-coast/pathways/teaching-education/education/elementary-teacher-education-associate-arts-degree-transfer-aat/>)
- Infant and Toddler Teacher, Associate in Science Degree (<https://catalog.cccd.edu/orange-coast/pathways/teaching-education/education/infant-toddler-teacher-associate-science-degree/>)
- Infant and Toddler Teacher, Certificate of Achievement (<https://catalog.cccd.edu/orange-coast/pathways/teaching-education/education/infant-toddler-teacher-certificate-achievement/>)
- Preschool Teacher, Associate in Science Degree (<https://catalog.cccd.edu/orange-coast/pathways/teaching-education/education/preschool-teacher-associate-science-degree/>)
- Preschool Teacher, Certificate of Achievement (<https://catalog.cccd.edu/orange-coast/pathways/teaching-education/education/preschool-teacher-certificate-achievement/>)