



# Career Options in Early Care and Education



## Resources

Child Care Licensing – 405-521-3561 or 1-800-347-2276,  
[www.okdhs.org](http://www.okdhs.org)

Reaching for the Stars – 405-521-3561 or 1-800-347-2276,  
[www.okdhs.org](http://www.okdhs.org)  
Consultation and Technical Support Specialist (CATSS)  
405-521-3561 or 1-800-347-2276, [www.okdhs.org](http://www.okdhs.org)

Center for Early Childhood Professional Development  
(CECPD): 405-799-6383 or 1-888-446-7608, [www.cecpd.org](http://www.cecpd.org)  
Services Provided:  
Oklahoma Registry/REWARD Oklahoma  
Video Lending Library  
Child Care Career Training Series  
Environment Rating Scales Assessment  
Oklahoma Training Approval System

Scholars for Excellence in Child Care (Scholars) – 405-225-9395  
or 1-866-343-3881, [www.okhighered.org/scholars](http://www.okhighered.org/scholars)  
Scholarships are available for:  
Career Technology Center Scholarship (Pathway to CDA)  
Community College Scholarship  
CDA Assessment Scholarship

Head Start Collaboration Office – 405-949-1495,  
[www.okcaa.org/headstart/state](http://www.okcaa.org/headstart/state)

State Department of Education/Early Childhood Services –  
405-521-3346, [www.sde.state.ok.us](http://www.sde.state.ok.us)

Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education –  
405-377-2000, [www.okcareertech.org](http://www.okcareertech.org)

Oklahoma State Department of Health – 405-271-5600 or  
1-800-522-0203, [www.ok.gov/health/](http://www.ok.gov/health/)  
Child Care Warmline 1-888-574-5437  
Child Guidance Services 405-271-4477

Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral (OCCRA) –  
405-942-5001, 1-888-962-2772, [www.oklahomachildcare.org](http://www.oklahomachildcare.org)

Contact your local technology center, college or university to learn  
more about certificate or degree programs.

## State and National Professional Organizations

**National Association for the Education of  
Young Children**  
(NAEYC) [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org)

**Early Childhood Association of Oklahoma**  
(ECAO) [www.ecaok.org](http://www.ecaok.org)

**Oklahoma Child Care Association**  
(OCCA) [www.oklahomachildcareassociation.com](http://www.oklahomachildcareassociation.com)

**National Association for Family Child Care**  
(NAFCC) [www.nafcc.org](http://www.nafcc.org)

**Southern Early Childhood Association**  
(SECA) [www.southernearlychildhood.org](http://www.southernearlychildhood.org)

**National Child Care Association**  
(NCCA) [www.ncca.org](http://www.ncca.org)

**National Afterschool Association**  
(NAA) [www.naaweb.org](http://www.naaweb.org)

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# Career Options in Early Care and Education

## Advanced Degrees

- Early care and education instructor at technology center, community college or university
- Curriculum specialist/coordinator
- Child development specialist
- Child guidance specialist
- Research/writer
- Early intervention specialist
- Family support and education
- Family child care home provider

- Child care center director/coordinator
- Program manager in a state agency/resource coordinator
- Teacher/administrator/special educator in a public or private elementary school-certification required.
- Early childhood consultant
- Speech and hearing pathologist
- Occupational and physical therapist
- Child psychologist
- Infant/child mental health specialist

## Bachelors of Science, Bachelors of Arts, Bachelors of Education Degrees

- Early childhood teacher in Head Start or child care; public school (certification required)
- Special education teacher (certification required)
- Family childcare home provider
- Administrator in a Head Start Program
- Child care center director/coordinator
- Parent/family educator or advocate

- Program manager in a state agency/resource coordinator
- Parents as teachers coordinator
- Director of school-age (out of school time) program
- Resource and referral specialist
- Child care licensing specialist
- Adult educator
- Child life specialist in a hospital

## Associate of Arts, Associate of Science or Associate of Applied Science Degrees

- Head Start teacher
- Child care master/lead teacher
- Family child care home provider
- Child care center director

- School-age program provider
- Early intervention/special needs program
- Para-professional assistant
- Home visitor

## National Credential Level and Certificate of Mastery

- Head Start teacher assistant (CDA required)
- Child care teacher-master teacher
- Family child care home provider

- Child care center director
- Early Head Start teacher

## Core Level-positions require minimum education and some specialized training

- Child care teaching assistant
- Family child care home provider or assistant
- School-age program assistant
- Special needs child care assistant
- Nursery attendant or volunteer

- In-home caregiver
- Camp counselor
- Substitute teacher
- Nanny

There may be other related positions that may benefit from obtaining education and training.