

SOUTHEAST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIALIST PROGRAM
TECHNICAL STANDARDS

To assist in making a decision about pursuing this program, the following is a general overview of the physical requirements, working conditions, and job duties of an Early Childhood Specialist.

This rewarding career provides the opportunity for Early Childhood Specialists to nurture and care for children who have not yet entered kindergarten. They may also supervise older children before and after school. These professionals play an important role in children's development by attending to the needs of children when parents are away. Early Childhood Specialists organize and implement activities that stimulate children's physical, emotional, intellectual, and social growth.

Early Childhood Specialists may work in a variety of settings. Early Childhood training and licensing requirements vary among states, but a license is often required for services provided in a school, in a center, or in a caregiver's home. Job prospects are excellent.

- Early Childhood Specialists may own their own business, providing child care services for children and their families through private contracts, home settings, or child care centers.
- Private household Early Childhood Specialists, sometimes called *nannies* or *au-pair*, generally care for children of a single family at the children's home. These early childhood professionals may take care of children from infancy to age 12, tending to the child's early education, nutrition, health, and other needs.
- Family child care professionals care for children in the provider's home and may care for children from multiple families. Early Childhood Specialists in this setting often work alone with a small group of children, although some work with larger numbers of children with multiple adults.
- Child care centers are open for set hours, and provide a standardized and regulated system of care for children from multiple homes. More than one adult usually works with the same group of children. The role of an Early Childhood Specialist may be as a lead teacher, as an assistant teacher, or as a support staff with a variety of responsibilities.
- Public school programs, private preschools, and Head Start programs provide early learning experiences to children of varying ages. An Early Childhood Specialist may work in a classroom alongside a teacher in implementing a curriculum that addresses all areas of children's development.
- After school programs provide care that addresses the development, education and care of children and youth during their out-of-school hours. An Early Childhood Specialist in this setting may work alone or with other staff in a school setting, a center, or in the caregiver's home.

Early Childhood Specialists are expected to have the ability to:

- Care for a group of children without any other adults present
- Maintain a safe and nurturing environment
- Engage children in developmentally appropriate activities
- Teach social skills
- Foster learning skills and school readiness
- Provide nutritious snacks or meals
- Communicate effectively with the children and the children's family
- Maintain confidentiality at all times
- Show maturity, patience, and understanding
- Be enthusiastic and constantly alert
- Have energy and physical stamina
- Speak, stand, and walk
- Carry the weight of a child, up to 50 pounds
- Frequently lift, carry, stoop, and bend
- Work in an indoor and an outdoor setting

By signing below, I am acknowledging I have read the above information and understand the general physical requirements, working conditions, and job duties typically associated with an Early Childhood Specialist. I understand that this information is general in nature and that actual conditions and job duties may vary.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____