

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.

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.

An Early Childhood Specialist 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, center or caregiver's home. Job prospects are excellent.

- Early Childhood Specialists may own their own business, providing childcare services for children and their families through private contracts, home settings or child care centers.
- Private household Early Childhood Specialists, sometimes referred to as “nannies” or “aupair”, 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 childcare professionals care for the 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.
- Childcare 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, an assistant teacher or as 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 and 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 outdoor setting

Background Check & Drug Screen Disclosure Statement

1. I understand and acknowledge, as a requirement for my desired program, I must successfully pass a drug screening, criminal background check, or both, at my own expense by the date given to me by Southeast Tech.
2. I understand failure to pass the drug screening, background check, or both, by this date may result in my immediate termination from the program.
3. I understand the results of a drug screening, criminal background check or both may affect my eligibility to continue in the program. Furthermore, I understand that the results of a drug screening, background check, or both, may also affect my eligibility to attend a clinical or internship site and/or my eligibility to take specific courses in my program.
4. I understand the results of a drug screening, criminal background check, or both, may affect my eligibility to take a board/certification exam or gain employment in my desired program career field.
5. I understand any incident reported on my criminal background check may require additional expense and documentation submission for certification exam approval prior to the start of core program courses.

I have read this agreement and I understand its contents. I understand I am responsible for meeting the requirements set forth in this agreement.

Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____