

Early Childhood Education*

Education & Training Career Cluster

(AA Transfer Degree)

SAN JUAN COLLEGE

NATURE OF WORK

Teachers, preschool to third grade, play an important role in the child's development. Early childhood experiences shape a child's view of themselves and the world around them. They can have a profound affect on later success or failure in school, work, and in their personal lives. Early childhood educators introduce children to mathematics, language, science, and social studies. Educators use every type of tool to teach these basic skills from computer to books to art and music. Teachers at this level teach several subjects. In some schools teachers may work as a team and are jointly responsible for a group of students. Multilevel classrooms are small in number, but are on the increase.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Pre-school teachers may work in a public school system or in a privately owned facility. This is a very rewarding field; however, it can also be frustrating when dealing with the unmotivated students. Stress may be experienced in instances where classes are large, workloads are heavy or when older schools are run down and lack many modern amenities. Teachers also have accountability standards that may increase or change over time. Sometimes frustration occurs as teachers don't have as much control over what they are required to teach. Many teachers work more than 40 hours a week when one averages in the duties that they perform outside of the classroom. Most teachers work the traditional 10-month school year with a two-month vacation during the summer.

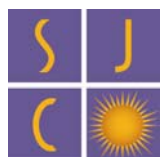
TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS

A bachelor's degree is necessary for a teacher to teach kindergarten and above. All teachers need to be licensed. For a teacher to teach in another state, state specific exams need to be passed. Licensing for preschool teachers is generally more stringent in public schools than private. Some states require a bachelor's degree to teach preschool, while others accept an associate's degree.

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment for educators will grow as fast as the average, dependent on location and grade level. Most job openings will result from the need to replace the huge number of retiring teachers expected through 2016.

*Most of this information is from the Occupational Outlook Handbook—2008-2009



CAREER OPTIONS

Private Preschool Teacher, Public Preschool, Kindergarten, First through Third Grade Teachers.

ESTIMATED ENTRY SALARY RANGE

NM — Preschool (private) \$13,985-\$17,430
— P-Kindergarten (public)—\$30,000-\$37,960
Nationally— Preschool (private) \$20,980
—Pre-K to12—\$43,480-\$48,690
(depending on location and level)

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

Counselor, Social Worker, Coach, Diagnostician, Developmental Specialist, Education Administrator, Librarian, Teacher Assistant, Psychologist

SJC Basic Program Information

The Early Childhood Education program is designed to prepare students to transfer to a four year university or college in New Mexico. It is a 64-credit hour program.

The rigorous nature of this degree fulfills the expectations at the baccalaureate level, however it is recommended that students contact an advisor at their desired four-year university to make sure that their electives will transfer.



For further information go to:

www.sanjuancollege.edu/pages/158.asp

Click on the AA degree under Transfer Programs

www.careers-nm.org

www.bls.gov/oco/ocos069.htm

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