

# Preparing for a Career in Early Childhood Education / Teaching Pre-School and After-School Programs

## Description

Preschool teachers, child-care providers, and after-school program staff nurture and teach children 0-13 years of age in child care centers, nursery schools, preschools, public schools, community programs, and family child care homes. They organize activities that stimulate the children's physical, emotional, intellectual, and social growth. In addition, they help children explore their interests, develop their talents and independence, build self-esteem, and learn how to behave with others.

## Education/Training

Each State has its own licensing requirements that regulate caregiver training, ranging from a high school diploma, community college courses, or a college degree in Child Development or Early Childhood Education; however, most State requirements are minimal. Formal education requirements in some private preschools and child care centers are often lower than in public programs since they are not bound by State requirements.

## Child Development Permit

The Child Development Permit is a document that authorizes service in the care, development, and instruction of children in a publicly-funded child care and development program. It verifies that you have fulfilled the requirements established by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) in the State of California. You must have a permit to be eligible for child care and development teaching or administration positions funded by California Department of Education/Child Development Division, Headstart, County of Orange, or individual cities.

The State of California offers Child Development Permits at six levels. Individuals may advance from one level of the permit matrix to another by completing the necessary education and experience requirements. Below are the six permits, please refer to the Child Development Permit matrix for specific course requirements for advancement.

*Application procedures and course requirements for permits are available at [www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl797.pdf](http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl797.pdf).*

- Child Development Assistant Permit
- Child Development Associate Teacher Permit
- Child Development Teacher Permit
- Child Development Master Teacher Permit
- Child Development Site Supervisor Permit
- Child Development Program Director Permit

**Note:** *Completion of a valid standard First Aid Certificate and CPR Certificate is required for the Infant/Toddler and Preschool options.*

## Child Development Program at Santa Ana College

The Child Development Program has certificate options with emphasis on infant/toddler, preschool, and school-age children. These certificates offer knowledge about the development of the young child from pre-birth through early school years, as well as opportunities to learn ways to meet the emotional, physical, social, and educational needs of the child. The program prepares students for working directly with children as teachers in child care or other preschool and after-school environments, and seeks to support and enrich students in their roles as parents.

The core courses needed to obtain the **Child Development Associate Teacher** permit and to meet minimum requirements for the State Department of Social Services to teach in **private or church** preschools are:

<b>CDEV 107</b>	Child Growth and Development
<b>CDEV 108</b>	Observation and Assessment for Early Learning and Development
<b>CDEV 110</b>	Child, Family, and Community
<b>CDEV 111A*</b>	Principles and Practices of Teaching Young Children
<b>CDEV 111B*</b>	Introduction to Curriculum for Young Children

**\*Note:** *CDEV 111A and CDEV 111B (Preschool option) can be substituted with CDEV 116A and CDEV 116B for the Infant/Toddler option OR with CDEV 120A and CDEV 120B for the School-Age option.*

To obtain the Child Development Teacher Permit, which meets requirements to work in **publicly funded** preschools, students need 9 additional Child Development units and 16 general education units from plans A, B, or C in the areas of English/Language Arts, Math/Science, Social Science, and Humanities/Fine Arts.

## Salary

According to the 2021 California Occupational Guide, pre-school teachers in Orange County earn between \$15.00 and \$22.40 per hour.

## Useful Websites

California Commission on Teacher Credentialing

Education Job Board (Career Opportunities)

Santa Ana College – Center for Teacher Education

Santa Ana College – Child Development & Education Studies Department

Child Development Training Consortium

[www.ctc.ca.gov](http://www.ctc.ca.gov)

[www.edjoin.org](http://www.edjoin.org)

[www.sac.edu/teachered](http://www.sac.edu/teachered)

[www.sac.edu/cdes](http://www.sac.edu/cdes)

[www.childdevelopment.org](http://www.childdevelopment.org)