



Early Childhood Education Career Pathways

With special focus on the Clear Creek Colorado



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Introduction

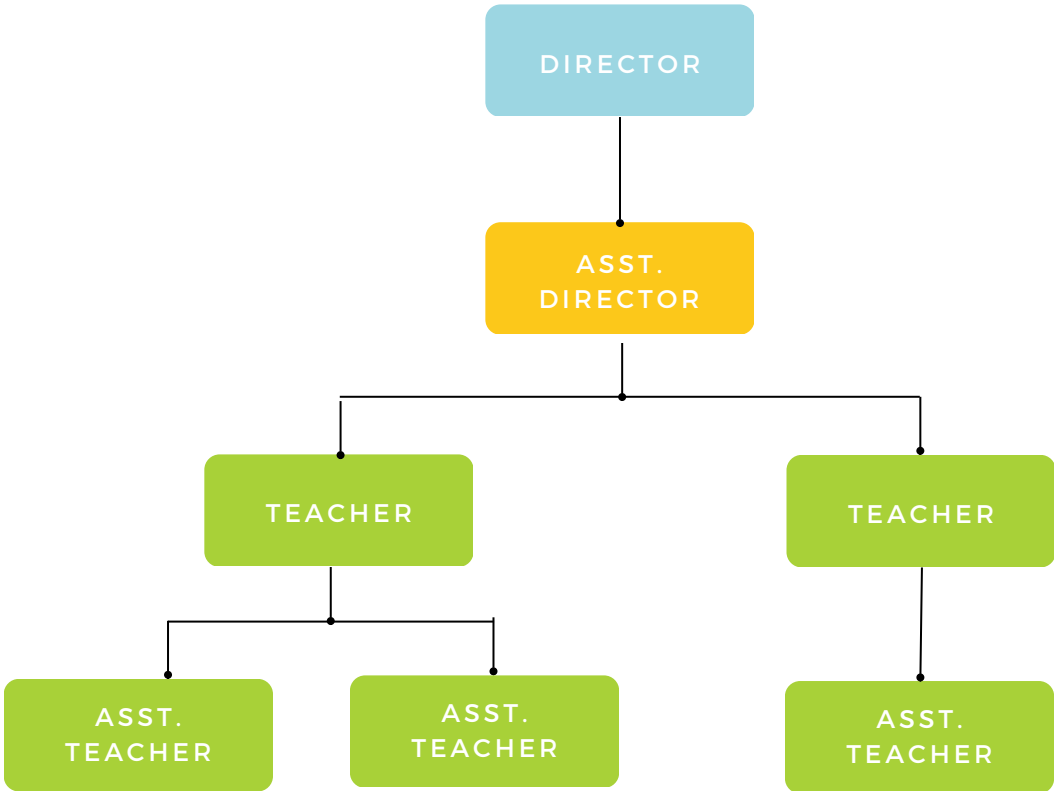
Start your career in Early Childhood Education here with us! Whether you're just getting started or are an early childhood professional, we will help you get you where you want to be.

Providing your career path support is a very important part our work to successfully launch the Clear Creek Early Childhood Education (CCECE) Center, set to open in Idaho Springs in Fall 2024. This groundbreaking initiative aims to provide around 60 childcare seats for children from birth to age 6, with a sliding-scale tuition system to ensure affordability.

Clear Creek will provide learner support in pursuing ECE certifications including guidance, scholarships, internships, practicum hours, transportation, childcare while pursuing certification, and computer and internet access. Clear Creek also plans to encourage others to open childcare centers within the county by establishing, and providing to all centers, business practices and technology infrastructure.

We look forward to helping you launch this rewarding profession.

Example Organization Chart



Early Childhood Education

Job Descriptions

Director

Supervises and leads staff, designs programs, oversees daily activities, and prepares budget.

Assistant Director

Assists director with planning, managing, marketing, and directing center.

Teacher

Creates and implements lesson plans and activities.

Assistant Teacher

Assists teachers in care, supervision, and education.



I started in Early Childhood so that I could be at work with my daughter. That first day in the classroom, I knew I had found my dream job.

Roadmap

There are many pathways to becoming a professional in Early Childhood. The following has examples, but there are counselors who are ready to help you create a customized path based on your experience and availability.

Colorado Shines Professional Credential Applies to All EC Professionals
Colorado Shines provides a professional credential which is valued by Colorado employers. The Colorado Early Childhood Professional Credential 3.0 has six levels, each with distinct requirements. Early Childhood Teachers are expected to reach at least Level 2. Requirements for advancement vary and may include – but are not limited to – additional coursework.

The Colorado Shines Professional Development Information System (PDIS) also offers online courses, scholarships, and licenses for advancement.

[Create PDIS account \(English\)](#)

[Create PDIS account \(Spanish\)](#)

Roadmap

**TEACH YOUNG CHILDREN
IN THE CLASSROOM**

WHY

- LEARN ABOUT CHILD DEVELOPMENT
- YOUR EDUCATION WILL HELP YOU SUPPORT YOUR OWN CHILD
- YOU MAY LOVE IT, AS OUR TEACHERS DO
- WORK WHERE YOUR KIDS ARE

HOW

**CHILD DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATE
CREDENTIAL PROGRAM**

- UNDERSTAND ALL ASPECTS OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT
- 120 HOURS OF SELF-PACED INSTRUCTION
- 480 HOURS OF WORK EXPERIENCE

**CHILD CARE
APPRENTICESHIP
PROGRAM**

- RECEIVE ONGOING COACHING AND SUPPORT WHILE OBTAINING SKILLS WITHIN YOUR PROGRAM
- QUALIFY FOR FREE AND LOW COST TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES.

**ASSOCIATE'S OR
BACHELOR'S DEGREE**

- GET A DEDICATED DEGREE
- CHANGE YOUR CAREER WITH ALTERNATIVE LICENSURE
- GET PAID WHILE YOU LEARN - AS A TEACHER'S AIDE OR CHILDCARE ASSISTANT

MANY MORE OPTIONS

- EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHERS ARE IN HIGH DEMAND AND THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO OBTAIN CREDENTIALS - YOU MAY ALREADY HAVE SOME! CONTACT US JULIA BRINK AT RED ROCKS COMMUNITY COLLEGE - JULIA.BRINK@RRCC.EDU

GET STARTED

WE'LL HELP

- STUDY GROUPS TO HELP YOU STAY ON TRACK AND GAIN CONFIDENCE
- SCHOLARSHIPS AND STIPENDS
- COUNSELORS TO HELP YOU CHOOSE YOUR PATH
- GET CERTIFIED QUICKLY AND FOR LITTLE TO NO-COST

- CONTACT MARGIE MARLIN, CARLSON PRESCHOOL TEACHER @ MARGARET.MARLIN@CCSDRE1.ORG

VISIT CLEARCREEKKIDS.ORG

Roadmap: Early Childhood Teacher

Child Development Associate Credential Program

This can potentially be the quickest route to becoming an Early Childhood Teacher. It is self-paced and possible to complete in six months. This credential qualifies you for center-based infant/toddler care and CCSD preschool.

The CDA is the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education. The credential is administered to ensure that CDA educators understand all aspects of child development; emotional, physical, intellectual and social. The credential is nationally and globally recognized.

- 120 hours of self-paced instruction
- 480 hours of work experience

No prior work experience is required, however, you must have a high school diploma, GED, or be enrolled as a junior or senior in high school career and technical program in early childhood education to qualify for a scholarship.

Red Rocks Community College has options for both self-paced/online and in-person completion.

CCSD offers weekly study sessions with Margie Marlin, Carlson preschool teacher, to help with curriculum and gaining confidence in the classroom. Email Margie at margaret.marlin@ccsdre1.org.

Roadmap: Early Childhood Teacher

Child Development Associate Credential Program

Learn more [here](#).

Apply to the program at RRCC [here](#).

If you have any questions for RRCC, please call Julie Brink at 303-914-6584 or email julia.brink@rrcc.edu.

Scholarships

The CDA credential is available for FREE through scholarships and stipends.

Apply for a scholarship for the CDA [here](#).

[TEACH.org](#) also offers financial aid and it's free to register—this is also a great resource for people just getting into the profession or those looking to gain more education and credentials.

New: stipends for those just starting out. To receive a career stipend of \$50:

- Register at Teach.org
- Enroll in the RRCC CDA program.
- Submit proof of enrollment

Roadmap: Early Childhood Teacher

Child Care Apprenticeship Program

Choose your own path to become a Certified Child Care Development Specialist. Learn on the job with on-site support. Apprentices are paid employees who produce high-quality work while they learn skills that enhance their employers' needs.

- Receive ongoing coaching and support while obtaining skills within your program
- Qualify for FREE and low cost training opportunities.
- Stipends and information on scholarship opportunities (when available).
- Receive recognition from the United States Department of Labor as a Certified Child Care Development Specialist
- Become early childhood teacher/director qualified

You must be at least 16 years old and willing to make a 2-year commitment.

Learn more [here](#).

Apply to the program at RRCC [here](#).

If you have any questions for RRCC about this program, please call 303-914-6272.

Roadmap: Early Childhood Teacher

Child Care Apprenticeship Program

Scholarships

- Up to \$1500 per semester to cover costs associated with education requirements of the apprenticeship program.
- o \$500 stipend at the beginning of the program to support upfront costs such as child care, living expenses, and other wraparound supports.
- o \$500 at the completion of the 6-month probationary period.

TEACH.org offers financial aid and it's free to register—this is also a great resource for people just getting into the profession or those looking to gain more education and credentials.

Roadmap: Early Childhood Teacher

Associate's or Bachelor's Degrees

There are multiple pathways to become a qualified EC Teacher through Associate's and Bachelor's degrees, whether you're just starting out or already have a degree or two, or want to change careers.

The Colorado Department of Early Childhood has created a "[rainbow chart](#)" of pathways. Here are a few

- [Early Childhood Education AAS Degree](#) - This program prepares you to work as a professional in a variety of capacities in early childhood education. Completing this program prepares you for teaching and/or administrative positions in early care and education settings. [See RRCC's Pathway.](#)
- A Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctorate degree in Child Development or Child Psychology qualifies you as an EC Teacher.
- If you have a Bachelor's degree, you can obtain Alternative Licensure in Early Childhood.

Many other options are available. Early Childhood Teachers are in high demand and there are many ways to earn credentials.

Scholarships

[TEACH.org](#) offers financial aid and it's free to register—this is also a great resource for people just getting into the profession or those looking to gain more education and credentials.

Roadmap: Director

The coursework you complete to become a teacher earns credentials towards administration, too.

- Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education with coursework in administration
 - Red Rocks Community College offers the Early Childhood Education AAS Degree. - This program prepares you to work as a professional in a variety of capacities in early childhood education. Completing this program prepares you for teaching and/or administrative positions in early care and education settings. See RRCC's Pathway.
- Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education/ Child Development with coursework in administration
- Graduate degree in Early Childhood Program Administration

Scholarships

TEACH.org offers financial aid and it's free to register—this is also a great resource for people just getting into the profession or those looking to gain more education and credentials.

Contact Us

We are here to help you get involved in Early Childhood Education, a profession that is in high-demand not only in Clear Creek, but also nationwide. Contact us to learn how to customize your own path to joining a profession that makes such a difference in childrens' lives.

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Please Visit ClearCreekKids.org