

Early Childhood Educator

Run the learning day for kids under 6. Two years of college, a licence in most provinces, and pay that is finally climbing.

TYPICAL PAY

\$46,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$35k to \$62k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 3 years

after high school

DEMAND

Very high

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

**Child care centres, preschools,
kindergarten classrooms, home c...**

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
 Grade 12 English is the main requirement. Work with young kids now: camps, babysitting, a community centre.
- 2 Early childhood education diploma** 2 years
 A 2-year college diploma with supervised placements in real child care rooms. Offered at almost every public college in Canada.
- 3 Register with your province** A few weeks
 In Ontario you join the College of Early Childhood Educators. Other provinces issue a certificate or a level through a government branch.
- 4 First job** Weeks
 Centres hire fast. Many students get an offer from their placement site before they graduate.
- 5 Move up** 3 to 8 years
 Room lead, then supervisor or centre director. Some go on to a degree and become a teacher.

Pros and cons

- + Short, cheap training and you get hired fast
- + Real influence in the years that shape a person most
- + No evenings, no nights, no weekends at most centres
- Pay is low for the responsibility you carry
- Physically tiring: floor level, lifting, noise all day
- You catch every cold the kids bring in

Good to know

Quebec tried it first

Quebec launched heavily subsidized child care in 1997, starting at \$5 a day. It became the model the rest of the country argued about for 25 years before the national child care agreements were signed.

Ontario kindergarten is taught by two people

Ontario full-day kindergarten rooms are run by a certified teacher and a registered early childhood educator working as a team. It is one of the few places in Canada where the two professions share a classroom...

Optional boosts

Special needs resource qualification. Infant and toddler specialty. Montessori or Reggio Emilia training. French-language certification.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Early Childhood Educator, wages (updated Nov 2025)
 College of Early Childhood Educators (Ontario)
 College of Early Childhood Educators: Apply to the College
 Government of Canada: Early Learning and Child Care agreements

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/early-childhood-educator>



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