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# EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

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The Early Care and Education Program is designed to educate students in principles of child growth and development, preparing engaging, developmentally and culturally appropriate curriculum and environments, and experience with applying these principles into direct work with children and their families. The program reflects the current and projected needs of the early childhood profession. Courses are designed to satisfy CA Department of Social Services licensing regulations and the Commission on Teacher Credentialing for work permits. Educating and caring for young children requires study, personal and professional integrity, self-reflection and critical thinking. This program prepares students to: apply theories of child development and educational pedagogy with children birth to eight, create enriching educational environments and curriculum, utilize child-centered, emergent and developmentally appropriate approaches to learning, make meaningful connections with families, support children's understanding of diversity and inclusion, and support children's social-emotional well-being.

### Programs of Study

#### Degrees:

- AA-T – Child and Adolescent Development
- AA-T – Elementary Teacher Education
- AS-T – Early Childhood Education
- AA – Early Childhood Development
- AA – Early Childhood Intervention

#### Certificates of Achievement:

- Associate Teacher
- Early Childhood Development
- Early Childhood Intervention Assistant

#### Career Opportunities

Students have opportunities to work within the following professions: early childhood and afterschool programs, transitional kindergarten and first to third grades, special education, early intervention and early childhood mental health and social and community agencies or advocacy programs.