

Advancing Early Childhood Education Together

Early childhood education is far more than a job; it's a career path. Indiana needs a skilled workforce to develop the next generation. By continuing your education, you can not only shape children's school readiness and social and emotional development, but you can pursue a rewarding career with advancement opportunities.

Why continue your career in early childhood education?

• Job growth in Indiana

Indiana's early childhood education workforce is projected to need an additional 9,078 individuals by 2024, according to the Early Learning Advisory Committee's 2017 Annual Report.

• Career advancement and higher compensation

Many options exist for early childhood professionals with advanced education, including: Lead Teacher, Master Teacher, Directors, Coaches, and more. Various positions carry increasing responsibility and higher compensation.

• Better outcomes for children

Continuing education will enable you to develop your teaching skills and in turn help children in your care develop stronger social and emotional skills that will impact their professional and academic success in life.

How do I find my next career step?

Flexible and affordable options for continuing education are available, with financial aid possibilities and both traditional and online programs throughout Indiana. Employers are becoming increasingly supportive as the benefits of continuing education to everyone are clear. Take your next step to explore education options:

Call **317-636-9197 x288** or email Beth Riedeman at **bethr@earlylearningindiana.org** to find out more.

What are the requirements for an entry-level education teacher?

In order to be a lead teacher in a licensed center or an owner of a family child care center, you must have at least a CDA credential. Due to the increasing education requirements in the field, some facilities also require a CDA for assistant teachers.

About Partnerships for Early Learners

Partnerships for Early Learners serves providers, child care resource and referral agencies, families, and community leaders. With a vision to expand access to high-quality programs for Hoosier children, we provide professional development, coaching, leadership training, and family supports.

For more information on Partnerships for Early Learners, educational opportunities, and how you can get involved, please visit **www.partnershipsforearlylearners.org**.



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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the career pathway for the field of early childhood education?

There are many entry points into the field of early childhood education, depending on your education and experience. Take a look at the Indiana Early Childhood and Out of School Learning Career Pathways to understand the different levels within the field. This pathway assists practitioners in planning their training, education, and career development goals so they can be well-prepared to educate, nurture and meet the needs of infants, children, youth and their families. The pathway can be found at http://secure.iaeyc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Indiana-Early-Childhood-and-Out-of-School-Learning-Career-Pathways_3-11-16_Final-1.pdf.

As a recent college graduate with a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education, what are my career options?

- Lead teacher in an early childhood education program
- Center or assistant director for a program
- Education coordinator or director of curriculum at a child care center
- Family child care owner
- Family child care teacher
- Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten teacher at a public school, if degree includes licensure
- Head Start programming member, including roles such as a teacher, coach, or case manager
- Child Care Resource and Referral staff, including roles such as a professional development specialist or a PATHS to Quality™ coach
- State Office of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning staff, including roles such as a licensing consultant, professional development director, or quality development director
- Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) intake specialist

Are scholarships available for those who want to obtain a degree or credential in the early childhood education? If so, how can I apply?

- Scholarships are available for those currently working in the field to further their education through the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® INDIANA scholarship program housed at Indiana AEYC. More info can be found here (<http://secure.iaeyc.org/programs-research/teach-early-childhood-indiana/>).
- Indiana AEYC offers CDA coursework through their Indiana Non-Formal CDA Program (<http://secure.iaeyc.org/programs-research/indiana-non-formal-cda-project/>)
- Early Learning Indiana's Partnerships for Early Learners is also collaborating with Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana to offer CDA courses at their Excel Centers. Both students from the Excel Centers and community members will be able to enroll in these classes. Additional resources for finding CDA courses statewide:
- Local child care resource and referral agencies also offer CDA coursework. (<http://partnershipsforearlylearners.org/about/your-child-care-resource-referral-agency/>)

To find out more about these opportunities, contact Beth Riedeman, Manager of Workforce Initiatives, at bethr@earlylearningindiana.org or **317-636-9197 x288**.

Is there a set of Core Knowledge Competencies for the field of early childhood education? If so, where can I find them?

Indiana Core Knowledge and Competencies for the field of early childhood education can be found here (http://inpdn.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/2016_INCKC.pdf), as listed on the website for the Indiana Professional Development Network.

Education Stories



Lee Ann Kidwell
Lead Teacher, Preschool

“I realize, especially with my schooling, how important our role is as teachers.”

After 25 years in early childhood education, the kids continue to make me laugh, and I still learn something new every day.

Over the span of twelve years, with the encouragement of my director, I pursued my bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education and was able to apply what I learned directly in the classroom.

I realize, especially with my schooling, how important our role is as teachers. Early childhood education is very important as a basis for everything kids will do for the rest of their lives. First, with interactions—their relationships with others, their peers, teachers, and families—that’s what we build on. We are the foundation for the rest of their education. My college coursework has been particularly useful in helping create individualized strategies that fit each family.

When I graduated, my coworkers surprised me with a celebration at work. I think I celebrate every day because I can relax for a while, but it won’t be for long—I want to go back to school for a graduate degree and want to continue mentoring younger teachers.

To those who are hesitant to go back to school, know that you can do it—there are other teachers who have been through it that will be there to help you. I know that I will be.