



Become an ECE

Are you passionate about early childhood development?

Becoming a registered Early Childhood Educator (ECE) is a rewarding and in-demand career. While working as an ECE, you'll gain the skills and knowledge you need to positively impact young children, their families, and the community.

ECEs set the foundation for lifelong growth.

Learn more about how you can become an ECE at:
www.HuronCounty.ca/Become-An-ECE



ECE Pathways | From High School

You can become a registered Early Childhood Educator (ECE) directly from high school.

Talk to your guidance Counsellor about:

- Take a related co-op or seek a volunteer opportunity in child care
- Register for a dual credit in child care

Consider taking the following courses:

- Families in Canada – (HHS4U/C)
- Human Development Throughout the Lifespan (HHG4M)
- Working with Infants and Youth Children (HPW3C)
- Raising Healthy Children (HPC3O)
- Working with School-Age Children and Adolescents (HPD4C)

Consider which post-secondary program might be right for you.

Some local options include:

- Fanshawe College: www.fanshawec.ca
- Lambton College: www.lambtoncollege.ca
- Conestoga College: www.conestogac.on.ca
- Online with Contact North: www.studyonline.ca
- All other Ontario Colleges: www.ontariocolleges.ca/en

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ECE Pathways | From Employment

You can become a registered Early Childhood Educator (ECE) while you're already working in the child care sector. Some things to consider:

Enroll in a Recognized ECE Program: Many colleges in Ontario offer diploma programs in Early Childhood Education. These programs usually take about two years to complete and are offered both full-time and part-time, and include placements.

Meet Admission Requirements: Ensure you meet the admission requirements for the ECE program you choose. This typically includes having a high school diploma, Consider a prior learning assessment to determine if you meet certain requirements prior to registration.

Seek Financial Assistance: Some employers may offer financial assistance for courses or paid leave while you are completing schooling. Look into ECE Grants for additional funding opportunities. Many Ontario colleges also offer scholarships and bursaries.

Apply for Field Placement: As part of your diploma program, you'll need to complete field placements in different child care settings. These placements are usually arranged through your college program.

Register with the College of Early Childhood Educators (CECE): Once you complete your diploma, you must register with the CECE to practice as a Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE) in Ontario.

Consider an Apprenticeship: The Child Development Practitioner Program offers practical experience while also learning about child development.

By balancing work and study, you can gain practical experience while completing your educational requirements. Some employers may even offer flexible hours or support for further education if you already work in a child care setting.

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ECE Pathways | Re-Entry

Consider returning to a career in early childhood education if you've been previously registered as an ECE.

Re-entering early childhood education can be incredibly fulfilling. Here's why:

Impact on Children: You'll shape children's futures, helping them develop important social, emotional, and academic skills that can benefit them for life.

High Demand: There's a steady need for early childhood educators, which means good job security and growth opportunities.

More Support and Improved Wages: There are more resources, better training, and improved working conditions now, making the job easier and more rewarding. Many organizations are now offering better pay for early childhood educators, reflecting the growing recognition of the value of your work.

Variety of Roles: Early childhood education offers many career paths from teaching to policy work.

Personal Joy: Watching children grow and learning alongside them can be deeply satisfying.

Strong Community: You'll connect with other passionate professionals and be part of a supportive network.

Make a Difference: You can help improve policies and practices for children and educators while supporting families and communities with economic growth.

Grow Professionally: Returning to the field can help you develop new skills and stay updated with the latest methods.

If you love working with kids and want to make a lasting impact, re-entering early childhood education could be a great choice.

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