

Careers in Child Care Curriculum



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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	3
Curriculum Structure.....	4
Lesson One – Career as a Child Care Teacher.....	5
FOCUS: What Is It?	6
LEARN: Adding to What You Know	8
REVIEW: Reflection	11
Lesson Two – Career as a Child Care Center Director	13
FOCUS: What Is Child Care Administration?	14
Lesson Two – Career as a Child Care Center Director	16
LEARN: Child Care Center Director Deep Dive.....	16
REVIEW: Reflection	18
Lesson Three – Career as a Nanny	20
FOCUS: Nanny vs Working in a Child Care Center – How Different Can It Be?	21
LEARN: Nanny for a Day.....	23
REVIEW: Reflection	25

Curriculum Structure

The *Child Care Career Exploration Curriculum* is composed of the following lessons. Approximate lesson times are included.

Lesson	Title	Approximate Time
One	Career as a Child Care Teacher	60-75 minutes
Two	Career as a Child Care Center Director	65-85 minutes
Three	Career as a Nanny	55-75 minutes
	Total	3-4 hours

Lesson Structure

Each lesson begins with a Lesson Overview, Lesson Objectives, and a Lesson at a Glance table, which lists the lesson activities, materials required, suggested preparation steps, and approximate class time.

Lesson Sections

The actual lesson follows the overview, which will contain some of the sections described below.

FOCUS

Every lesson begins with a FOCUS activity intended to capture participants' attention. This may be in the form of a small or large class discussion, a game, a review of previous lesson information, or a demonstration. During this activity, participants are introduced to the topic of the lesson.

LEARN

The LEARN activity in each lesson varies in its presentation mode. It may be a slide presentation, group activity, or demonstration.

REVIEW

The majority of lessons end with a REVIEW activity intended to briefly review the lesson's key messages or main points.

Lesson One – Career as a Child Care Teacher

Lesson Overview

In this lesson, participants will explore an occupation as a child care teacher. Participants will learn about typical job duties, pay, job outlook, and potential for several positions relating to child care occupations.

Lesson Objectives

After completing this lesson, participants will be able to:

- Identify what a child care teacher is and does
- Compare and contrast the roles and requirements of a variety of careers related to child care
- Discuss the impact and job outlook of child care teachers

Lesson at a Glance

Activity	Materials	Preparation	Approximate class time
FOCUS	• Child care teacher video (choose one) • <i>What Is a Child Care Teacher? Notes Page</i>	1. Print/photocopy the <i>What Is a Child Care Teacher? Notes Page</i> (one per participant).	10-15 minutes
LEARN	• <i>Act It Out</i> cards • <i>Child Care Skit Rubric</i> • Props for skits • Timer	1. Print/photocopy 6 sets of the <i>Act It Out</i> cards. 2. Print/photocopy the <i>Child Care Career Skit Rubric</i> (one per participant).	25 minutes
REVIEW	• <i>Career Collage</i> (student workbook) • Career Collage Graffiti Space (made with a large piece of bulletin board paper (6 pieces total, 1 for each career)) • Index cards • Glue • Markers	1. Create a large poster space for each of the careers on the <i>Career Collage</i> page. 2. Label each space with one of the career titles on the worksheet list.	25 minutes

Lesson One – Career as a Child Care Teacher

FOCUS: What Is It?

10-15 minutes

Purpose:

Participants gain an overview of what a child care teacher is.

Materials:

- Child care teacher video (choose one)
- *What Is a Child Care Teacher? Notes Page*

Facilitation Steps:

1. Share these statistics with the participants:

- Employment of childcare workers is projected to grow 6 percent from 2021 to 2031, about as fast as the average for all occupations.
- About 170,100 openings for childcare workers are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire.
- Education and training requirements for childcare workers vary by setting, state, and employer. They range from no formal education to certification in early childhood education.

2. What is a child care teacher?

Define it for students. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics: *Childcare workers attend to children's needs while helping to foster early development.*

- Supervise and monitor the safety of children
- Prepare and organize mealtimes and snacks for children
- Help children keep good hygiene
- Change the diapers of infants and toddlers

- Organize activities or implement a curriculum that allows children to learn about the world and explore their interests
- Develop schedules and routines to ensure that children have enough physical activity, rest, and playtime
- Watch for signs of emotional or developmental problems in children and bring potential problems to the attention of parents or guardians
- Keep records of children's progress, routines, and interests

3. Ask participants for what they think are the benefits of working as a child care teacher. Explain that they are going to watch a short video that introduces them to child care teaching. Give students the *What Is a Child Care Teacher? Notes Page*.

4. Play a few child care teacher videos of your choice. Here are a few suggestions but there are many more available on YouTube.

[A DAY IN THE LIFE OF CHILDCARE WORKER! - YouTube](#)

[Take This Job: Daycare teacher - YouTube](#)

[Daycare Tips : What Does It Take to Be a Daycare Teacher? - YouTube](#)

[5 Skills & Qualities A Child Care Worker Must Have! - YouTube](#)

5. If you choose not to watch the video, you can have participants complete the note page using their own research or opinions on the answers.

6. After the video is done, go through the *What Is a Child Care Teacher Notes Page* and ask participants to share answers.

What Is a Child Care Teacher?

Notes Page

1. What do you think would make a good child care worker? What qualities would a good child care teacher have?
2. How can you become a child care teacher?
3. What types of duties would you do as a child care teacher?
4. What kind of job market is there currently for child care workers?
5. What would be the most difficult part of being a child care worker?

Lesson One – Career as a Child Care Teacher

LEARN: Adding to What You Know

25 minutes

Purpose:

The purpose of this activity is to have participants understand what it would be like to be a child care teacher working with different ages of children.

Materials:

- *Act It Out* cards
- *Child Care Worker Skit Rubric*
- Props for skits
- Timer

Facilitation Steps:

1. Divide the class into six small groups. Give each group one of the *Act It Out* cards. Explain to participants that they should use the information on the card and their own research to create a short skit about that child care scenario.
2. Distribute the *Child Care Worker Skit Rubric* so they understand what they will be held accountable for.
3. Supervise participants as they prepare their skits. Provide help with finding research online if they have additional questions that are not detailed on the *Act It Out* cards.

Encourage participants to outline scenarios in the skit that show a true reflection of the job.
4. After participants have finished preparing their skits, have each group act it out.
5. Following each skit, discuss that group's specific scenario.

Act It Out

Child Care Teacher Child: Infant, 4 months Include in your scenario: • An infant who is coming to your center for the very first time • The mother is very emotional	Child Care Teacher Child: Infant, 10 months Include in your scenario: • An infant who is crying excessively • No matter what you do the infant will not calm down
Child Care Teacher Child: Toddler, 18 months Include in your scenario: • A toddler who has separation anxiety • The toddler has a difficult time at drop off	Child Care Teacher Child: Toddler, 21 months Include in your scenario: • A toddler who is aggressive with other children • The toddler takes toys from other children during playtime
Child Care Teacher Child: Age 3 Include in your scenario: • A preschooler who is hearing impaired • It is difficult to understand what the child is saying	Child Care Teacher Child: Age 4 Include in your scenario: • A preschooler who says bad words to other children • The child is belligerent and will not stop cursing when asked

Child Care Teacher Skit Rubric

	Excellent 4 points	Good 3 points	Average 2 points	Needs Improvement 1 point	Total
Accuracy	All information is accurate	Almost all information is accurate	Most information is accurate	Very little information is accurate	
Role	Excellent teamwork in skit presentation – responsibility is evenly shared	Good teamwork in presentation, but one person had a bit more responsibility	Fair teamwork with one member responsible for a majority of the presentation	Little or no teamwork exhibited	
Knowledge	The skit shows a thorough understanding of all job responsibilities	The skit shows a fairly clear understanding of job responsibilities	The skit shows only a partial understanding of the job responsibilities	The skit does not reflect knowledge of the job responsibilities	
Creativity	Used several props and added several visuals like photos or animations	Used one prop and one visual effect	Used a prop or visual effect	Used no props or visual effects	
Required Elements	The skit is appropriate for the scenario provided	The skit is mostly appropriate for the scenario provided	Half of the skit does not apply to the scenario	The skit is off the mark entirely	

20 points 100%

15 points 75%

10 points 50%

Total _____

Lesson One – Career as a Child Care Teacher

REVIEW: Reflection

25 minutes

Purpose:

Participants will reflect on the different paths you can take for child care, often starting with becoming a child care assistant. They will research to assess their desire for a career in one of these areas.

Materials:

- *Career Collage*
- Career Collage Graffiti Space (made with a large piece of bulletin board paper (6 pieces total, 1 for each career))
- Index cards
- Glue
- Markers

Facilitation Steps:

1. Before this activity, create an ample poster space for each career on the *Career Collage* worksheet. Label each area with one of the career titles: child care teacher infants, child care teacher toddler, child care teacher preschool, or child care assistant.
2. Give participants the *Career Collage* worksheet. Ask them what they think a career collage might look like.
3. Explain that each participant will choose one of the child care teacher careers on the list provided.
4. Explain to participants that they will have about 15 minutes to research one of these careers and take some notes.
5. From there, they will use the markers, index cards, and *Career Collage* worksheet to add to their Career Collage Graffiti Space. Encourage participants to write keywords and draw related images to create a graffiti wall all about the child care career they selected.

All participants will work on the graffiti wall that goes with their chosen career, so that multiple participants will work individually but on the same graffiti wall space.

6. Allow participants time to research their selected careers and then use the index cards and other resources to complete the Career Collage Graffiti Space.

Career Collage

Directions: Choose one of the careers listed below. Use the space provided to research key facts about the career. Collect as much information as possible to assist you in creating the Career Collage Graffiti Wall. After completing the research, use the index cards, markers, etc. to add to the graffiti wall that corresponds to the career you selected from the list below. Take information from the research notes below.

Child Care Teacher Career Options (choose one and circle it):

Child Care Teacher (infants)
Child Care Teacher (toddlers)

Child Care Teacher (preschool)
Child Care Assistant

Main Duties:	Required Training:
Job Outlook:	Other:

Lesson Two – Career as a Child Care Center Director

Lesson Overview

In this lesson, participants will explore a child care center director career. Participants will learn about typical job duties, pay, job outlook, and potential for several positions relating to being a center director.

Lesson Objectives

After completing this lesson, participants will be able to:

- Identify what a child care center director is and does
- Describe what a typical day is like for a child care center director
- Determine if this is a career path that could be a good choice for them

Lesson at a Glance

Activity	Materials	Preparation	Approximate class time
FOCUS	• Child care center director videos • <i>A Day in the Life of a Child Care Center Director Notes Page</i>	1. Have participants access the <i>A Day in the Life of a Child Care Center Notes Page</i>	10-15 minutes
LEARN	• <i>Creating an Infographic: What's the Child Care Center Director Buzz?</i> • Internet access	1. Print/photocopy <i>Creating an Infographic: What's the Child Care Center Director Buzz?</i> (one per participant).	30-45 minutes
REVIEW	• <i>Being a Child Care Center Director Is/Is Not the Career Field for Me</i> • Infographics created and posted by participants in the LEARN portion of the lesson	1. Print/photocopy <i>Being a Child Care Center Director Is/Is Not the Career Field for Me</i> (one per participant).	25 minutes

Lesson Two – Career as a Child Care Center Director

FOCUS: What Is Child Care Administration?

10-15 minutes

Purpose:

The work of a child care administrator ensures everything runs smoothly each day. The importance of having a competent director on staff cannot be understated!

Students will receive an overview of just how crucial the role is to any thriving child care center.

Materials:

- Child care center director videos
- *A Day in the Life of a Child Care Center Director*

Facilitation Steps:

1. Share these statistics with the participants:
Employment of preschool and childcare center directors is projected to grow 8 percent from 2021 to 2031, faster than the average for all occupations.

About 6,400 openings for preschool and child care center directors are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire.

2. Ask participants what they think a typical day is like in the life of a child care center director. Give participants the *A Day in the Life of a Child Care Center Director* worksheet.
3. Have participants complete the column about what they already know and what they would like to know about a career as a child care center director.
4. Play one or more videos about the career as a child care administrator. Here are four to choose from, but there are many more:

[The Role of a Child Care Director](#)

[A Day in the Life - Child Care Center Director - YouTube](#)

[How to land a Daycare Director Job | Become a Childcare Director - YouTube](#)

[Hot Topic: Childcare Center Director Top Qualities - YouTube](#)

It may be useful to preview the *A Day in the Life of a Child Care Center Director* worksheet before watching the video. Have participants complete the third column identifying what they have learned in the video clip.

5. After the video is done, go through the *A Day in the Life of a Child Care Center Director* worksheet and ask participants to share answers.

A Day in the Life of a Child Care Center Director Notes Page

Directions: Identify what you already know about being a child care administrator, what you want to know, and what you learned during the lesson.

Know	Want to Know	Learned

Lesson Two – Career as a Child Care Center Director

LEARN: Child Care Center Director Deep Dive

30-45 minutes

Purpose:

The purpose of this activity is to have participants better understand what child care administrators do.

Materials:

- *Creating an Infographic: What's the Child Care Center Director Buzz?*
- Internet access

Facilitation Steps:

1. Distribute the *Creating an Infographic: What's the Child Care Center Director Buzz?* worksheet. Explain to participants that they will make a digital infographic about this career field.

2. Share a sample infographic so they understand the look and feel of a typical infographic.

[Infographic: Increasing Access to Child Care - Durham's Partnership for Children \(dpfc.net\)](http://dpfc.net)

[2018 Early Child Workforce Index Infographics - Center for the Study of Child Care Employment \(berkeley.edu\)](http://berkeley.edu)

3. Encourage participants to make sure their infographics include the required information. Using color, images, and a unique layout will make the infographic visually appealing for others.
4. Have participants print and post their infographics in a conspicuous location for use during the REVIEW part of the lesson. Allow time for participants to view their peers' infographics.

Creating an Infographic: What's the Child Care Center Director Buzz?

What is an infographic?

An infographic is a collection of pictures, charts, and text that give an easy-to-understand overview of this occupation.

As you prepare to make your infographic digitally, use the internet to research the following information:

- ☐ Career as a child care center director
- ☐ Education requirements
- ☐ Primary duties/responsibilities
- ☐ Professional organizations
- ☐ Work environment

Other requirements:

- ☐ At least one image or chart
- ☐ Neatness
- ☐ Use of some color
- ☐ Creative layout
- ☐ Large enough fonts ease of reading information

Lesson Two – Career as a Child Care Center Director

REVIEW: Reflection

20 minutes

Purpose:

Participants will reflect on what they learned about being a center director and decide if this career is or is not a field for them to consider.

Materials:

- *Being a Child Care Center Director Is/Is Not the Career Field for Me*
- Infographics created and posted by participants in the LEARN portion of the lesson

Facilitation Steps:

1. Distribute the *Being a Child Care Center Director Is/Is Not the Career Field for Me* worksheet.
2. Instruct participants to review *Being a Child Care Center Director Is/Is Not the Career Field for Me*. As participants walk through the gallery and look at different participants' infographics, they will respond to facts they observe on the infographic.

Based on the number of participants/infographics to review, provide about 15 minutes for this activity.

3. Once participants have completed *Being a Child Care Center Director Is/Is Not the Career Field for Me*, provide an opportunity for them to discuss what they recorded in each section of the worksheet.
4. Allow participants to share their thoughts about a career in child care administration before wrapping up this lesson. Specific questions might include: What would you enjoy? What would you find the most challenging?

Being a Child Care Center Director Is/Is Not the Career Field for Me

Directions: Record information from the infographics in the spaces provided. Circle in the title if this career is or is not for you.

This is interesting!	Shocking Info?!?!?!?	Is this for real?
I want to know more about this:	This sounds like something I would like:	I am not too sure about this:
I have a question:	I want to remember this:	Other (you choose):

Lesson Three – Career as a Nanny

Lesson Overview

Nannies come to your home to care for your child or children. While they generally cost more than daycare, nannies are able to give their attention to just your child in a space they're already used to, which makes them desirable for many families. Understanding what being a nanny is like is the focal point for this lesson.

Lesson Objectives

After completing this lesson, participants will be able to:

- Compare and contrast the roles and requirements of careers as a nanny versus working in a child care center
- Identify typical job duties performed by nannies on the job

Lesson at a Glance

Activity	Materials	Preparation	Approximate class time
FOCUS	• Nanny work videos • <i>Pros and Cons</i> worksheet	1. Print/photocopy the <i>Pros and Cons</i> worksheet (one per participant). 2. Prepare to share videos.	15 - 25 minutes
LEARN	• <i>Nanny for a Day</i> worksheet • Internet access	1. Print/photocopy the <i>Nanny for a Day</i> worksheet (one per participant).	20-30 minutes
REVIEW	• <i>Nanny Investigation Station</i> worksheet	1. Print/photocopy the <i>Nanny Investigation Station</i> worksheet (one per participant).	20 minutes

Lesson Three – Career as a Nanny

FOCUS: Nanny vs Working in a Child Care Center – How Different Can It Be?

15-25 minutes

Purpose:

This lesson will take a look at what it is like to work in two different environments that provide care for children

Materials:

- Nanny work videos
- *Pros and Cons*

Facilitation Steps:

1. Share these statistics with the participants:
Demand for nannies is expected to go up, with an expected 671,540 new jobs filled by 2029. This represents an annual increase of 15.09 percent over the next few years.
2. Ask participants how they think being a nanny in a home differs from being a child care worker in a center. Here are five reasons why being a nanny may be better:
<https://familyhelpers.com/5-reasons-nannyng-beats-working-in-a-daycare/>
Reason 1. More Attention

Reason 2. Personalized Care

Reason 3. More Freedom

Reason 4. Quality Time

Reason 5. Better Pay
3. Distribute the *Pros & Cons* worksheet.
4. Play one or more of the videos about being a nanny.

[day in the life of a household manager/nanny to 4! - YouTube](#)

[5 Things To Consider Before Becoming a Nanny - YouTube](#)

[a day in the life as a live in nanny - YouTube](#)

[What it's like being a NANNY | Realistic Nanny of 2, Come to work with me vlog - YouTube](#)

[How to Get a Nanny Job With No Experience - Nanny tips - YouTube](#)

It may be helpful to preview the *Pros and Cons* worksheet before watching the video.

5. After the video is done, go through the *Pros and Cons* worksheet and ask participants to share answers.

Pros and Cons:

Nanny or Child Care Worker in a Center

Directions: Record pros and cons for each career in the respective spaces.

Nanny	
Pros:	Cons:
Child Care Workers in a Center	
Pros:	Cons:

Lesson Three – Career as a Nanny

LEARN: Nanny for a Day

20-30 minutes

Purpose:

The purpose of this activity is to have participants better understand what it is like to be a nanny on a typical workday.

Materials:

- *Nanny for a Day*
- Internet access

Facilitation Steps:

1. Distribute the *Nanny for a Day* worksheet.
2. Explain to participants that using the internet and their knowledge, they will create a detailed journal for what their day might be like.
3. Encourage participants to make sure their detailed journal entries contain accurate information for working as a nanny.
4. Divide participants into groups of four and have them discuss their detailed journal entries.

Nanny for a Day

Use the space provided to record the details of your day as a nanny. Use personal knowledge and the internet for information to make your journal sound as interesting and accurate as possible.

Time	Activity	My Reaction

Lesson Three – Career as a Nanny

REVIEW: Reflection

20 minutes

Purpose:

Participants will reflect on the different careers in child care. They will complete a short research project to learn more about being a nanny.

Materials:

- *Nanny Investigation Station*

Facilitation Steps:

1. Distribute the *Nanny Investigation Station* worksheet.
2. Instruct participants to complete a short research project to learn more about a nanny career path.
3. Once participants have completed the *Nanny Investigation Station* worksheet, have them discuss what they recorded in each worksheet section.
4. Allow participants to share their thoughts about a career as a nanny before wrapping up this lesson. Specific questions can be: What would you find most interesting? What would be the most challenging for you?
5. If time allows, share additional videos on careers in teaching.

Pros and Cons of Being a Nanny

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOrNtgmEBdY>

Nanny Investigation Station

Directions: Use the internet to research more about a career as a nanny.

Choose the type of nanny you'd prefer to be: Nanny for a single child (live in) Nanny for multiple children (live in) Nanny who lives at home but commutes to the family daily	Job Description (list at least 3 requirements): 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
Required Training:	Job Outlook - What Does the Future Look Like?