

Webinar:

Starting an Early Childhood Education Pathway Program



Realityworks®
Live it. Learn it.™

100% EMPLOYEE-OWNED



Who is Realityworks?



We partner with educators, administrators and industry leaders to ensure our offerings meet their needs and make lessons truly meaningful.

Realityworks
Live it. Learn it.
100% EMPLOYEE-OWNED



Presented by

Denise DuBois

Senior Product Manager

Realityworks[®]
Live it. Learn it.[™]

100% EMPLOYEE-OWNED

Attendees will:

- How ECE Fits Into the Career Cluster Model and Pathways
- ECE Pathway Courses
 - Career Exploration in Education and Training
 - Human Growth and Development
 - Fundamentals of Education Professions
 - Child Development
 - Applications of Education Professions
- Soft Skills for Early Childhood Education
- Free Resources
- Q&A

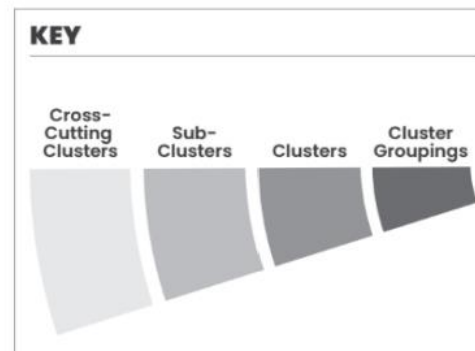
How ECE Fits Into the Career Cluster Model

Career Clusters Framework

[Guidebook: National Career Clusters Framework](#)



The Framework: Grid View



The Cluster: Education



The Subcluster: Early Childhood Development

Education: Transforming Lives and Enriching Futures Through Lifelong Learning

Cluster Definition: The Education Career Cluster spans careers aimed at fostering learning from early childhood to adulthood, including teaching, instructional design, counseling services, community engagement, learner support, and educator training. This Cluster emphasizes quality education standards and lifelong learning, preparing individuals for success through all life stages by nurturing knowledge, skills, and critical thinking and encouraging personal and societal growth in a constantly evolving world.

Sub-Clusters

Example Programs of Study

Early Childhood Development: Careers dedicated to nurturing the holistic growth of children from birth to 8 years old through education, care, and early intervention. Professionals in this field specialize in fostering physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development in early learners by applying proven and promising strategies for whole-child wellness.

Early Childhood Education
Developmental Education

Education Administration & Leadership: Careers in managing and leading educational institutions, developing policies, curating and organizing knowledge, leading teams, and conducting research to improve education. This Subcluster includes school and district administration, policy analysis, and research focused on optimizing school functions, implementing policies, and exploring ways to enhance learning. Professionals in this field work to ensure the effective operation of educational settings and promote continuous improvement through research and innovation.

Educational Leadership

Learner Support & Community Engagement: Careers focused on offering guidance and support to learners while building collaborative ties with families and communities. This field includes academic advising, library sciences, student health and wellness counseling, special education support, student life services in higher education, coaching, and career guidance within a school setting. This Sub-Cluster also includes community engagement practices that involve families, industry, and local resources for opportunities such as family support programs, work-based learning, and apprenticeships.

Professional Support Services
Library Science

Teaching, Training & Facilitation: Careers encompassing teaching and instructional design roles across diverse educational levels, from kindergarten through Grade 12 (K-12) to adult learning. This field includes integrating educational technology and emerging teaching methods into curriculum development and delivery. Careers in this Sub-Cluster also involve providing professional development and training for educators while facilitating learning experiences, and they involve providing coaching for individuals and groups. This field promotes lifelong learning in various settings, including schools, colleges, corporate environments, and community organizations.

Principles of Teaching



Planning a Pathway

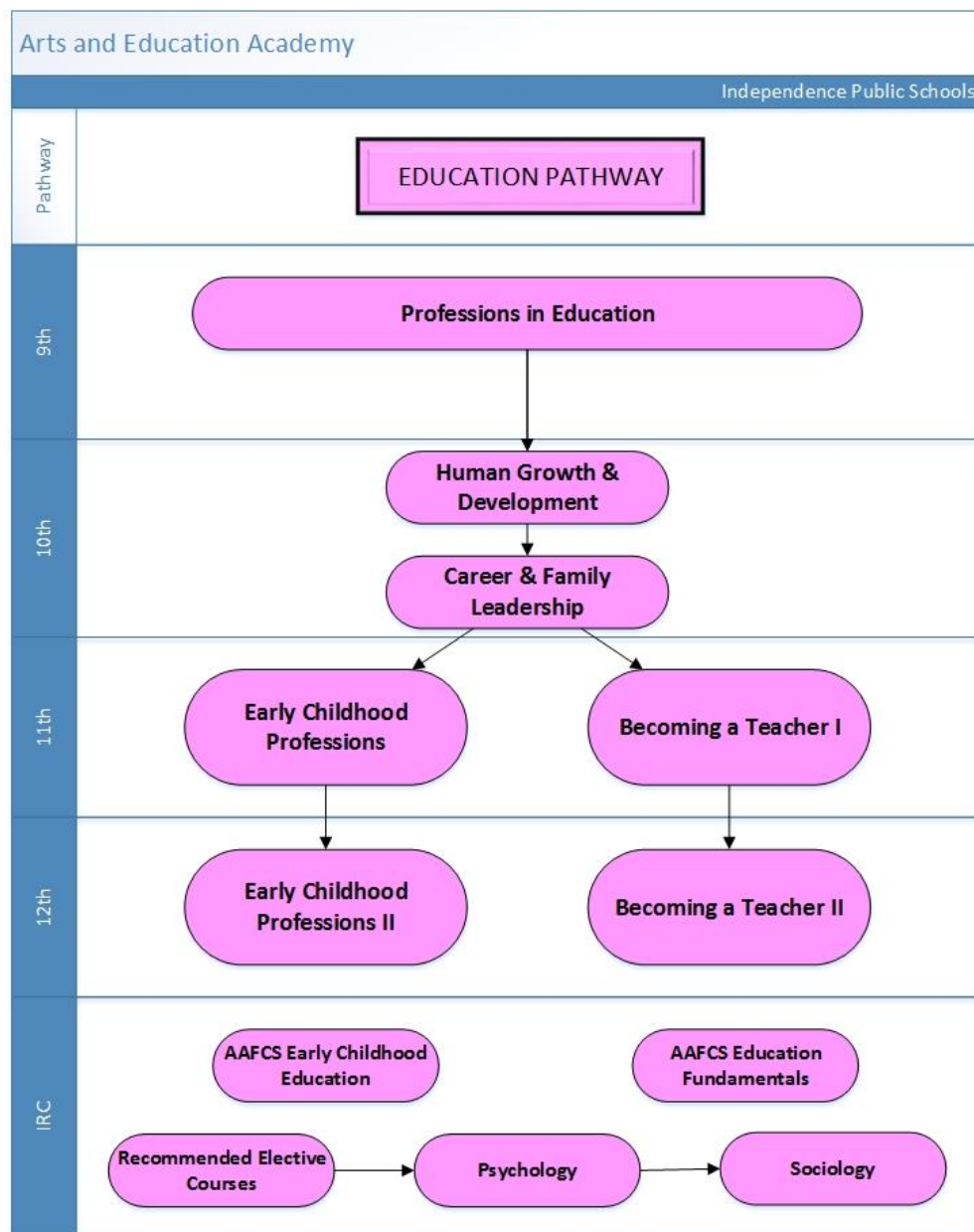
Education and Training

Career Cluster Plan of Study for ► Learners ► Parents ► Counselors ► Teachers/Faculty

This Career Cluster Plan of Study (based on the Education and Training Career Cluster) can serve as a guide, along with other career planning materials, as learners continue on a career path. Courses listed within this plan are only recommended coursework and should be individualized to meet each learner's educational and career goals. *This Plan of Study, used for learners at an educational institution, should be customized with course titles and appropriate high school graduation requirements as well as college entrance requirements.

EDUCATION LEVELS	GRADE	English/ Language Arts	Math	Science	Social Studies/ Sciences	Other Required Courses Other Electives Recommended Electives Learner Activities	*Career and Technical Courses and/ or Degree Major Courses for Education and Training	SAMPLE Occupations Relating to This Career Cluster	
Interest Inventory Administered and Plan of Study Initiated for all Learners									
SECONDARY	9	English/ Language Arts I	Algebra I	Earth or Life or Physical Science	State History Civics	All plans of study should meet local and state high school graduation requirements and college entrance requirements. Certain local student organization activities are also important including public speaking, record keeping and work-based experiences.	**Career Exploration in Education and Training **Information Technology Applications	► Administrator ► Assessment Specialist ► CareerTech Administrator ► Child Care Worker ► Clinical Psychologist ► Coach ► College/University Faculty ► Counselor ► Curriculum Developer ► Elementary Teacher ► High School Teacher ► Middle School Teacher ► Principal ► Speech-Language Pathologist	
	10	English/ Language Arts II	Geometry	Biology	U.S. History		**Human Growth and Development		
	11	English/ Language Arts III	Algebra II	Chemistry	World History Economics		**Fundamentals of Education Professions ** Parenting and/or Child Development		
	College Placement Assessments-Academic/Career Advisement Provided								
	12	English/ Language Arts IV	Statistics or other math course	Physics	Psychology or Sociology American Govt.		**Applications of Education Professions		
Articulation/Dual Credit Transcribed-Postsecondary courses may be taken/moved to the secondary level for articulation/dual credit purposes.									
POSTSECONDARY	Year 13	English Composition English Literature	Algebra	Chemistry	Psychology American History	All plans of study need to meet learners' career goals with regard to required degrees, licenses, certifications or journey worker status. Certain local student organization activities may also be important to include.	**Introduction to Education **Introduction to the Exceptional Learner		
	Year 14	Speech/ Oral Communication	Computer Applications	Biological Science Physical Science	Geography and Educational Psychology		**Diversity in Education and Training **Instructional/Educational Technology		
	Year 15	Technical Communication	Tests and Measurements		Political Science Sociology		**Managing the Learning Environment **Methods of Teaching and Learning Continue courses pertinent to the pathway selected.		
	Year 16+		Dependent on chosen pathway		Economics Philosophy of Educ.		Complete teaching/training major. (Fulfill student teaching requirement as needed.)		

ECE Pathway Samples



8 Classes You Can Expect to Take in an Early Childhood Education Program

Curious about what to expect in an early childhood education program? Learn more about some of the most common courses that prepare graduates for [careers in early childhood education](#).

1. Introduction to Early Childhood Education

In introductory classes, you'll explore the core principles and concepts of early childhood education. The course introduces child development and learning theories, trends in preschool education, and the best practices for educating young children.

Depending on the program, you might observe early childhood educators and classrooms.

2. Child Development

Understanding child development will help you create supportive, safe learning environments. This class covers brain development and its relationship to emotional, physical, and social development.

You'll examine language skills, physical changes, and cognitive growth from birth through adolescence. The course links child development to environments like the home and classroom.

3. Observation and Assessment

Learn how to observe children in diverse environments to understand their development and growth. You will examine assessment techniques and explore the relationship between assessment and program development.

Research-based approaches will help you strengthen your classroom leadership skills. The course also emphasizes classroom management and the tools you can use to create a safe classroom.

4. Language and Literacy Development

Before kindergarten, children begin to develop many key literacy skills. Therefore, it's important to learn how to integrate literacy skills into daycare and preschool settings, including emerging reading skills.

During the class, you'll study language and literacy development. You will also apply your knowledge in projects such as designing literacy activities.

5. Social and Emotional Learning

Social and emotional learning play important roles in early childhood education. Learn how to help children develop their self-regulation skills and strengthen their emotional resilience.

The course will teach you how to encourage healthy social relationships between children. You'll also learn how fostering trusting relationships supports social and emotional learning.

6. ECE Administration

Are you interested in roles like lead teacher or program director? A course in early childhood education administration can help you build key leadership and management skills.

You will learn how to evaluate programs, train teachers, and implement improvements. The course may also cover budgeting, parental relationships, and licensing requirements.

7. Curriculum Development

In daycares and preschools, children strengthen their fine motor skills, creative abilities, and foundational math and literacy skills. Learn how to build and implement a curriculum that teaches core skills.

You will study developmentally appropriate activities, curriculum assessment, and learning theory to create a strong curriculum.

8. Early Childhood Special Education

Explore the best practices when caring for young children with exceptional needs. The course covers instructional strategies, inclusive approaches, and differentiation in early childhood settings.

You will also learn how to work with families to support children with disabilities. The class might incorporate a practicum component to gain hands-on experience.

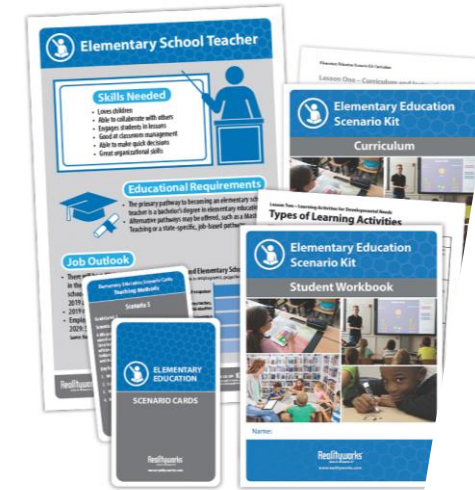
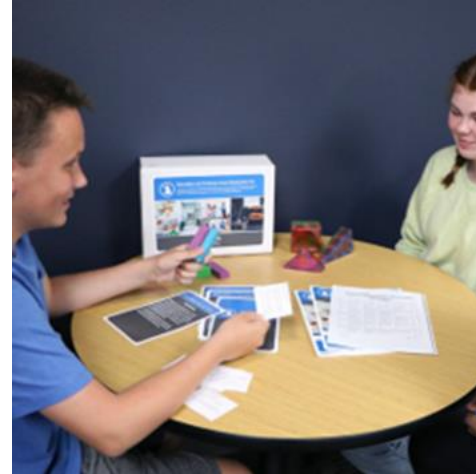
Career Exploration in Education

Goals

- Expose students to a variety of careers within education and training.
- Introduce students to soft skills needed for success in any career
- Engage them in scenario-based learning specific to childcare careers.

Recommended Hands-On Learning Aids

- [Education and Training Career Exploration Kit – Realityworks](#)
- [Elementary Education Scenario Kit](#)
- [Child Care Career Scenario Cards – Realityworks](#)



Activity #1-Soft Skills

Early Childhood Education Careers

Responsibility

Scenario: You work in a classroom with three-year-old students. Some of the children are potty trained and others still require diaper changes. For the past several months, the other person working in the room refuses to help with diaper changes. When a child needs a clean diaper, the other worker always conveniently sits down to rock a child or some other task.

Administration and Administrative Services Careers

Interpersonal Skills

Scenario: Every time one of your colleagues screens visitors to the school where you work, she refuses to make eye contact. She frequently holds her personal cell phone during interactions with visitors and has even asked visitors to wait while answering personal phone calls.

As someone who has worked in the office for a longer time frame, your supervisor has asked you to report on the employee's productivity.

Professional Services Careers

Listening

Scenario: A new speech pathologist comes to your building on Tuesdays. They were instructed to check in at the front office and provide a detailed copy of their schedule for the day. This is the second time that they have entered the building, went straight to the classroom, and requested access to a student they needed to work with.

Another conversation has been scheduled to discuss the psychologist's schedule and protocol.

Human Growth and Development

Goals

- Provide visual, hands-on resources, like models and kits, to engage students in learning
- Teach foundational information in a memorable, impactful way



Recommended Hands-On Learning Aids

- [Fetal Development Kit – Realityworks](#)
- [RealCare™ Infant Health and Safety Pack – Realityworks](#)
- [Food Science and Nutrition Lab Kit – Realityworks](#)
- [Birth Defects and Disorder Model Set - Realityworks](#)



Recommended Hands-On Learning Aids

- [RealCare™ Drug-Affected Baby - Realityworks](#)
- [Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Baby – Realityworks](#)
- [RealCare™ Premie Baby - Realityworks](#)



Activity #2-Fetal Comparison

- Month 1: ¼ inch (pea, one Red Hots candy, one round aspirin)
- Month 2: almost 1 inch (large jelly bean, quarter, large grape)
- Month 3: A little over 2 inches (car key, a ¼ of a Graham Cracker)
- Month 4: 4 ½ inches (toilet paper tube)
- Month 5: 6 ½ inches (standard stapler, tape dispenser)
- Month 6: Almost 12 inches (1-foot ruler)
- Month 7: Almost 15 inches (loaf of standard, store-bought bread)
- Month 8: A little over 16 ½ inches (toy doll)
- Month 9: 19-23 inches (RealCare Baby or similarly sized doll)



Fundamentals of Education Professions

Goals

- Teach important foundational skills relevant to education
- Teaching best practices for pedagogy
- Setting up the optimal learning environment,
- Understand legal issues impacting education professions

Recommended Hands-On Learning Aids

- [CDA Scenario Kit – Realityworks](#)
- [Child Care Center Design Kit – Realityworks](#)
- [Shaken Baby - Realityworks](#)
- [Child Abuse and Neglect Training Kit - Realityworks](#)



Activity #3- Learning Centers

Learning Center	Wet / Dry	Active / Quiet	Size / Location	Furniture	Toys/Materials

- Setting Up Learning Centers in a Toddler or Preschool Classroom (12 minutes)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJ78IAAnj9A>

Child Development

Goals

- Provide a self-paced overview of the fundamental information needed for childcare careers.
- Introduce practical application of skills with the RealCare Baby® simulation.

Recommended Hands-On Learning Aids

- [RealCare Baby® 3 Infant Simulator – Realityworks](#)
- [RealCare Baby Experience Student Workbooks \(qty 20\) - Realityworks](#)
- [Child Development Online Course - Realityworks](#)



Activity #4- Infant & Toddler Ages and Needs

Infant (0-12 months)				
	Development	Care	Play	Behavior Help
Physical				Not Applicable
Intellectual				
Emotional				
Social				

Toddler (12-36 months)				
	Development	Care	Play	Behavior Help
Physical				
Intellectual				
Emotional				
Social				

Applications of Education Professions

Goals

- Provide the next step in hands-on application of skills for senior students with a simulated childcare center.
- Integrate advanced leadership soft skills and transferable career skills to make the perfect capstone to a childcare career pathway

Recommended Hands-On Learning Aids

- [Child Care Experience™ Program – Realityworks](#)
- [Common Childhood Illnesses Baby – Realityworks](#)
- [Common Respiratory Diseases Baby - Realityworks](#)



Activity #5-Childcare Center Dream

Big Question: Brainstorm with your classmates. What does it take to open a childcare center?

Interview Questions: *This can be done independently or as a partner activity. Imagine that you are thinking about opening your own childcare center. If you are working with a partner, use the questions to interview them. If you are working independently, interview yourself. Read each question and thoughtfully respond.*

- What would you name your childcare center? And why?
- Where would it be located? (City, state, and where within the city)
- What skills do think are necessary for the successful operation of a childcare center?
- What will your expectations for the parents of the children be?
- What do you think will be the most rewarding aspects of owning a childcare center?
- What do you think some of the biggest challenges will be in owning a childcare center?
- What skills do you have that would make you a great childcare professional?
- What would your overall goal be for your childcare center?
- What goals/expectations would you have for yourself?
- What goals/expectations would you have for your staff?
- What goals/expectations would you have for the children who will attend your childcare center?
- What features and materials are most necessary for the children who will be attending your childcare center?
- What are some features and materials that might not be necessities, but would be nice to have for the children at your childcare center?

Soft Skills for Early Childhood Education Professionals

Soft Skills Every Early Childhood Educator Needs

- [Soft skills every Early Childhood Educator needs - Early Years Talent](#)
- [10 Essential Skills For A Successful Early Years Educator - Early Years Careers](#)
- [Key Skills for Successful Early Childhood Educators](#)
- [Early Childhood Teacher Skills: A Guide for Job Seekers | Indeed.com](#)



Recommended Soft Skill Resources

- [RealCareer™
Employability Skills
Program – Realityworks](#)
- [Leadership Soft Skills
Program – Realityworks](#)
- [Middle School
Employability Skills
Program - Realityworks](#)



Good Sources of Information

- National Association for the Education of Young Children
 - [final_higher_ed_leadership_report.pdf \(naeyc.org\)](https://naeyc.org/final_higher_ed_leadership_report.pdf)
- National Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences Education
 - [fcs-area_4-educationearlychild_final_7-9-17_abr.docx \(live.com\)](https://live.com/fcs-area_4-educationearlychild_final_7-9-17_abr.docx)
- American Association for Family and Consumer Sciences
 - [Early Childhood Education - American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences \(aafcs.org\)](https://aafcs.org/Early_Childhood_Education_-_American_Association_of_Family_and_Consumer_Sciences)
- Child Development Association Certification
 - [High School Pathways - CDA Council](https://cda-council.org/High_School_Pathways)



Links to ECE Industry-Recognized Credentials

- Child Development Associate
 - [Educator Pathways - CDA Council](#)
- AAFCS – Pre-pac
 - [Early Childhood Education - American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences](#)
- YouScience
 - [Child Development](#)
- NOCTI
 - [Blueprints - NOCTI](#)

Now what?

- Download our many FCS Implementation Guide: [Click Here](#)
- Download Posters: [Click Here](#)
- Request a consultation by completing this free form (or scanning the code) [Click Here](#)
- Check out Career Exploration Lessons: [Click Here](#)
- Check out all the free webinars we offer: [Click Here](#)
- Contact us with questions!



Let's connect!

We can help you start or refresh your own program!

Scan to:

- Connect with your local Realityworks account manager
- Request a free quote
- Ask questions and more

Scan me ↗

Realityworks[®]
Live it. Learn it.™

100% EMPLOYEE-OWNED

Q & A

