

Career Focus on...

# Early Childhood Education

## Introduction

- Would you like to be an integral part of children's social, emotional and intellectual development?
- Could you be responsible for the safety and well-being of children?
- Are you creative?
- Are you patient?
- Are you culturally sensitive?
- Are you comfortable presenting ideas and reading stories in front of groups of people?
- Could you manage shifting between multiple activities all day?

If you've answered yes to these questions, you may want to consider a career in Early Childhood Education.

## Did You Know... ?

- Through 2018, employment of school teachers is expected to grow by 13 percent in the U.S., about as fast as the average for all occupations.
- Preschool teachers are most often employed in early education and care programs (59%), public and private educational services (16%), and religious organizations (15%).
- About 37 percent of all workers in the industry are self-employed (including family child care providers), compared with only 8 percent in all industries.

## QCC Alumni Success Story

Ms. Daniele DeAdder is a May 2008 graduate of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Program at Quinsigamond Community College, but she didn't start out in the education field. Daniele initially obtained a Bachelor of Science degree and was working as a lab technician when she decided that she wanted to change careers. She realized that she wanted to work with children on a full-time basis. She had heard of Quinsigamond Community College's Early Childhood Education Program and how great it was. She decided to attend because it was both convenient and affordable. She also liked how she would be trained not only in the classroom, but also through hands-on experience at QCC's Children's School. Daniele is now employed as a Teacher at the Quinsigamond Community College Children's School.

Daniele says Quinsigamond's ECE program "immensely prepared and trained" her to work anywhere in the field as a licensed Pre-school Lead Teacher. She feels that the program provided her with knowledge and hands-on experience. Now she enjoys her job every day because it is always different. She cares for children ranging from 2.9 to five years of age. She enjoys working with the children and witnessing their achievements and growth. She loves to share her science knowledge with her students. In addition, Daniele will be helping to plan and implement the curriculum for the school in partnership with the families and QCC's ECE Program. She will also help to train new college students coming into the field.

## Career Options

### CHILD CARE WORKERS

Median Annual Salary: \$20,350

Recommended Education: High School Diploma (HS), Certification

[www.bls.gov/ocolocos170.htm#earnings](http://www.bls.gov/ocolocos170.htm#earnings)

### TEACHER ASSISTANTS/TEACHER AIDES

Median Annual Salary: \$22,200

Recommended Education: HS, Certification

[www.bls.gov/ocolocos153.htm#earnings](http://www.bls.gov/ocolocos153.htm#earnings)

### PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

Median Annual Salary: \$23,870

Recommended Education: Associate's Degree

[www.bls.gov/ocolocos069.htm#earnings](http://www.bls.gov/ocolocos069.htm#earnings)

### EDUCATION ADMINISTRATORS (PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE CENTER)

Median Annual Salary: \$39,940

Recommended Education: Associate's Degree, Bachelor's Degree

[www.bls.gov/ocolocos007.htm#earnings](http://www.bls.gov/ocolocos007.htm#earnings)

### KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS

Median Annual Salary: \$49,120

Recommended Education: Bachelor's Degree

[www.bls.gov/ocolocos069.htm#earnings](http://www.bls.gov/ocolocos069.htm#earnings)

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Median Annual Salary: \$49,330

Recommended Education: Bachelor's Degree

[www.bls.gov/ocolocos069.htm#earnings](http://www.bls.gov/ocolocos069.htm#earnings)

### SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS (PRESCHOOL, KINDERGARTEN, ELEMENTARY)

Median Annual Salary: \$50,020

Recommended Education: Bachelor's Degree

[www.bls.gov/ocolocos070.htm#earnings](http://www.bls.gov/ocolocos070.htm#earnings)

### SPEECH PATHOLOGIST

Median Annual Salary: \$62,930

Recommended Education: Master's Degree

[www.bls.gov/ocolocos099.htm#earnings](http://www.bls.gov/ocolocos099.htm#earnings)

### EDUCATION ADMINISTRATORS (ELEMENTARY SCHOOL)

Median Annual Salary: \$83,880

Recommended Education: Master's Degree

[www.bls.gov/ocolocos007.htm#earnings](http://www.bls.gov/ocolocos007.htm#earnings)

## Other Professionals in the Field

Josh Gondelman is a head teacher at the Arlington Infant Toddler Center by day, and a comedian on Boston's club scene by night. When Josh earned his bachelor's degree he found he was not interested in many of the careers his male friends were entering. Family and friends encouraged him to become an educator. He already had experience as a preschool and toddler assistant when he decided to go for the job in Arlington. Josh says his two careers fit together nicely: "From my preschool experiences I glean plenty of comedy material. From stories about magic tricks the kids have taught me, to my position as the only male employee on a staff of twenty. And from my standup experience I get practice communicating with a diverse array of people, which comes in handy in the classroom and during meetings with parents." Read more about Josh and other men in the Early Education field at MenTeach: [www.menteach.org/mens\\_stories](http://www.menteach.org/mens_stories).

## Next Steps

Wondering if the field of Early Childhood Education is right for you?

- Take a Career Assessment to match your interests with potential careers: [www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerassess](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerassess)
- Research the web links on this page and more: [www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerinfo](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerinfo)
- Conduct an Informational Interview. Speak with a live person employed in this field: [www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#infointerview](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#infointerview)
- Attend a Career Planning Session: [www.QCC.edu/images/capsession.pdf](http://www.QCC.edu/images/capsession.pdf)
- Speak with an Advisor: [www2.qcc.mass.edu/advising/adVCalladvCall.asp](http://www2.qcc.mass.edu/advising/adVCalladvCall.asp)
- Speak with QCC Faculty who teach Early Childhood Education courses.

## Sources Used

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-11 Edition*:

- Child Care workers: [www.bls.gov/oco/ocos170.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos170.htm)
- Teacher Assistants: [www.bls.gov/oco/ocos153.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos153.htm)
- Preschool, Kindergarten and Elementary Teachers: [www.bls.gov/oco/ocos069.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos069.htm)
- Education Administrators, Elementary School and Education Administrators, child care center: [www.bls.gov/oco/ocos007.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos007.htm)
- Special Education Teachers: [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes252041.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes252041.htm)
- Speech Pathologist: [www.bls.gov/oco/ocos099.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos099.htm)

Massachusetts Department of Workforce Development, Career Information System:

- Preschool/Kindergarten Teachers: [masscis.intocareers.org/info2.aspx?FileID=Occ&FileNum=100420&TopicNum=0](http://masscis.intocareers.org/info2.aspx?FileID=Occ&FileNum=100420&TopicNum=0)
- Elementary School Teachers: [masscis.intocareers.org/info2.aspx?FileID=Occ&FileNum=100309&TopicNum=0](http://masscis.intocareers.org/info2.aspx?FileID=Occ&FileNum=100309&TopicNum=0)

MenTeach: Recruiting Male Teachers for Education. [www.menteach.org/](http://www.menteach.org/)

Quinsigamond Community College, 2009-2010 Academic Catalog: [www.QCC.edu/images/2009-2010\\_Catalog.pdf](http://www.QCC.edu/images/2009-2010_Catalog.pdf)

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: [www.doe.mass.edu/](http://www.doe.mass.edu/)

## Worcester Area Employers

- Head Start Programs at the YWCA and YMCA
- Worcester Jewish Community Center Preschool
- Guild of St. Agnes
- Rainbow Child Development
- Miss Tanya's Longmeadow School

## Professional Associations

- National Association for the Education of Young Children: [www.naeyc.org/](http://www.naeyc.org/)
- Department of Early Education and Care: [www.eec.state.ma.us/](http://www.eec.state.ma.us/)
- Massachusetts Teachers Association: [www.massteacher.org/](http://www.massteacher.org/)
- Association for Childhood Education International: [www.acei.org/](http://www.acei.org/)
- Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: [www.doe.mass.edu/](http://www.doe.mass.edu/)

## Positions Entered by

### QCC Graduates

- Lead Teacher (ECE) Preschool
- Lead Teacher Infant Toddler
- Assistant Teacher, Preschool

## Looking for employment, co-op, internship, or service learning opportunities?

Contact the Career Placement Office: [www.QCC.edu/pages/Career\\_Placement.html](http://www.QCC.edu/pages/Career_Placement.html)

## Possible Transfer Schools

- Bridgewater State University
- Fitchburg State University
- Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
- Salem State University
- Worcester State University
- UMass Amherst
- UMass Dartmouth

## Looking for Specific Transfer Information?

- Start at the QCC Transfer web site: [www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer)
- Make an appointment online with the Transfer Advisor: [www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer/calendar](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer/calendar)
- Email questions to: [transfer@qcc.mass.edu](mailto:transfer@qcc.mass.edu)