Professional
Requirements & Training
for Preschool Teacher

Introduction to Early Childhood Care and Education
by
Dr. Chiu, Mei-Wen
Outline

- Description of Preschool Teachers
- How to Become a Preschool Teacher
- Education Required for a Preschool Teacher
- Preschool Teacher Training
- How to Be a Great Preschool Teacher
Description of Preschool Teachers

- Preschool teachers educate children 3 years old to 5 years old in a school system or in a day care center.

- The teachers incorporate different curriculums to foster children's social, motor and language development.

- Besides holding at least an associate's degree in Early Childhood Education, preschool teachers should possess certain characteristics and skills that will aid them in helping children reach their full potential.
Curriculum Options

- Preschool teachers educate young children in pre-primary subjects such as early literacy skills and help children meet developmental milestones like hopping on one foot or writing their name.
- Educators often select a preschool curriculum to base their lesson plans on, such as the Creative Curriculum, which encourages teachers to arrange their classrooms into different learning centers, so that teachers can demonstrate new skills in designated areas and times.
- Other curriculum ideas, such as the High Scope curriculum, involve the children more in an active role, as they try their own ideas with learning objectives in math, science, or the library area.
Character Attributes

- According to the Association of Christian Schools International, preschool teachers should have certain attributes.
- The organization states the importance of teachers being intelligent and resourceful, meaning that they keep their training current and their teaching ideas fresh.
- They should also remember that the same techniques do not work with every child.
- The organization adds that preschool teachers should remain sensitive and kind to their students and co-workers, practicing active listening skills and leading by example.
Classroom Size

- According to a December 2004 report from the National Institute for Early Education Research, keeping class sizes smaller with a lower teacher to student ratio allows for more one-on-one attention and interactive discussions.
- Teachers have more time to analyze each child's needs and interests, and adjust the lesson plans to the levels of the class.
- As of 2010, the National Association for the Education of Young Children has tightened up its teacher to student ratio.
- For a 3-year-old class with 14 students, the ratio must be 1 to 7. For the 4- and 5-year-old class, if there are 16 students, the ratio must be 1 to 8.
Professional Training

- Preschool teachers must be certified in CPR and first aid. Most schools and day cares bring in a trainer from the American Red Cross so that the entire staff will be certified at the same time.

- Certification for CPR and blood-borne pathogens, which covers communicable diseases, must be renewed every year, while first aid re-re-certification happens every three years.

- Training courses can include topics such as child abuse and neglect, observation and report writing, and safety training.
Salary

- According to the website alleducationschools.com, preschool teachers have the potential to earn $22,430 to $38,290 a year, as of 2009.

- Preschool teachers living in metropolitan areas may earn up to $41,000 annually, and preschool teachers in New York earn almost up to $38,000 a year.
How to Become a Preschool Teacher (The Basics)

- Preschool teachers work with young children to help them develop healthy behavioral and learning habits.
- If you love children, becoming a preschool teacher might be an excellent career path for you.
Instructions

- Get at least 1 year of child care work experience that doesn't include babysitting. To become a preschool teacher, you need to have at least 12 months in the field.
- Obtain an early childhood education degree from a local community college or university. Nowadays, you can even become a preschool teacher online. Not all preschool teaching jobs require the degree but it definitely helps.
- Get certified in Blood Borne Pathogen training. You absolutely must have this training in order to be eligible for preschool teacher jobs.
Instructions

- Get a TB test; you cannot find early childhood education jobs without having been tested.
- Take First Aid and CPR training; this is another absolute must when it comes to becoming a preschool teacher. These are frequently a part of a preschool teacher program, or you can find the classes at most community centers.
- Learn a second language. A second language makes you much more employable, as childcare jobs will need someone to communicate with those parents who don't speak English.
Education Required for a Preschool Teacher

- Preschool teachers are generally employed with private child care centers or schools.
- They are responsible for teaching preschool aged children.
- Preschool teachers utilize instructional curricula and teaching strategies to help children grow academically, socially and emotionally.
- Most preschool teachers are part-time employees who work only throughout the school year.
- Preschool teachers at child care centers may work a full 12 month schedule.
Overall Education

- The minimum education requirements for preschool teachers are different in each state.
- For instance, states may require a high school diploma or post secondary education.
- However, many colleges and universities offer programs in early childhood and child development.
- There are associate degree and bachelor's degree programs for aspiring preschool teachers.
- The courses provide training in various areas of child development.
State Certification

- Most states require preschool teachers to become certified in child development or some form of caregiver training.
- The licensing requirements vary with each state.
- For instance, some states require preschool teachers to possess a high school diploma and a child development certificate.
- Also, some states only require preschool teachers to attain a certain amount of credits in early childhood to meet the state's qualifications.
- The Department of Education for each state can provide details about the specific certification requirements for preschool teachers.
The child development associate certificate (CDA) is a national competency-based credential for early childhood professionals. Educational programs that provide the prerequisite training to obtain a CDA involve courses concerning the essential components of early childhood education.
Employers

Although the qualifications and licensing requirements to become a preschool teacher varies from state to state, many employers seek out candidates that have obtained childcare work experience and an associate's degree in early childhood or child development.

However, some employers may require additional training specifically aligned with the company's policies and procedures.
Many preschool teachers are prior assistant teachers or lead teachers.

Therefore, gaining experience working with preschool aged children, which is approximately ages 3 to 5 years, can be beneficial for aspiring preschool teachers.
Skills

- Preschool teachers must be able to work well with children by having effective communication skills.
- They must be able to utilize strategies to motivate and inspire the child's confidence.
- Also, preschool teachers use teaching strategies to develop motor and language skills and emotional development.
- Preschool teachers must understand how preschool children learn and make the most of playtime activities to enhance their academic and social skills.
A preschool teacher introduces young students to language, mathematics, social skills and other disciplines in order to prepare the students for grade-level education.

There are many ways to become a preschool teacher, including an education from a university, online degree or experience.
Educational Requirements

- Requirements may range from state to state, but most states require at least an associate's degree to be a preschool teacher.
- Education may be obtained by obtaining a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or the North American Montessori Center Preschool teacher diploma program.
- Coursework for obtaining an early childhood education degree from an educational institution require classes in child development, classroom management, instructional design and curriculum methods.
Obtaining Licensure

- All 50 states and the District of Columbia require teachers in public schools to be licensed, but some private schools do not require licensure.
- The State Board of Education or a licensure advisory committee usually grants a teaching license.
- A license to teach early childhood education enables one to teach any age from preschool through third grade.
How to Be a Great Preschool Teacher

- A great preschool teacher can affect the life of a child in numerous ways.
- By making learning fun, building a child's self-esteem or helping a child to feel special and cared for, a preschool teacher can set the pace for the entire educational experience.
- A great preschool teacher must love spending time with children. She must have patience and enthusiasm, as well as teaching credentials and training.
- She must also have enough confidence and charisma to command the attention of the entire class.
Instructions

- Obtain the necessary education. Depending on the state and school where you want to teach, you may need an associate's or a bachelor's degree with credits in early childhood development and education, psychology and curriculum development. You may also need supervised hours in a classroom and CPR training.

- Be patient and enthusiastic. Preschool age children need teachers who can explain rules and remain loving and kind amid the challenges of supervising small children. They must always have the children's well-being and safety in mind. A great teacher knows when to spend extra time with a child who might be having trouble while also encouraging the most advanced student.
Instructions

- Spend time with children in preparation for having your own class. You can babysit small children, volunteer at the library or observe in a local classroom. Gaining experience with children is one of the best ways to become a great preschool teacher, because you learn their needs and how to relate to them. Working with a smaller group will give you more confidence when you have your own classroom.

- Learn how to take control of the classroom. You want the children to love you and have fun, but you also need for them to respect you as the ultimate authority in the room. It will be more difficult for them to create chaos if you adhere to specific classroom rules and codes of conduct and always have consequences for inappropriate actions, such as timeouts.
Instructions

- Create lesson plans and activities that are educational and fun.
- Often, preschool teachers will create learning centers within the classroom, where subjects are divided by station. Students can then visit each station, such as the math or the reading station, and complete tasks.
- This encourages a child's independence as he completes tasks and is rewarded, and it makes school fun, exciting and different.
- There are many websites dedicated to lesson plans for children, and a new teacher can also seek out advice from the more experienced teachers at the school.
Question?