

COLLEGE TECH PREP**Early Childhood Professions**

This College Tech Prep Initiative is designed for students interested in careers working with children from birth through eight years of age. Students study the theory of child development, children's health and safety, guidance techniques, early learning content standards, curriculum design and lesson planning. Level II students participate in internships, which may include paid employment in the child care field. Both Level I and II students interact with preschool children in a lab experience setting. Throughout the course, students create activities, projects, and lesson plans, which will become part of a toolkit they will use as they begin their career. Emphasis is placed on the development of a Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) portfolio to showcase the mastery of the course standards.

Skills necessary for success

- Ability to work independently and follow directions
- Critical thinking skills and problem solving abilities
- Self-confidence to assume responsibility for the care and safety of children
- Ability to communicate effectively by leading a group of young children and working with other professionals
- Capable of developing and implementing creative lesson plans based on Early Learning Content Standards
- Attaining computer and technology skills to create teaching tools

Recommendations

- Excellent attendance record (93% attendance required for the Career Passport)
- Minimum 2.5 GPA (maintained for the Career Passport)

Career interests/helpful background

- Experience working with children
- Family and Consumer Sciences courses

Career opportunities/professional pathways

- Preschool Teacher
- Childcare Center Staff
- Paraprofessional (Educational Aide)
- In-Home Day Care
- Elementary, Special Education or Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher
- Child Psychologist
- Physical Therapist
- Recreation Director
- Speech and Hearing Therapist
- Social Worker

Higher education opportunities

- College credits available. See page 33.
- Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Development
- Bachelor's Degrees: Education, Family and Child Development, Child Life Specialist, Child Psychology

Licenses/certification

- Communicable Disease, First Aid, CPR and Child Abuse Recognition certifications
- Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential

Grades: 10, 11, 12**Length: Two years****School: Tallmadge, David Bacon Building****CREDIT:****Level I - Tech Theory 1; Lab 2.****Level II - Tech Theory 1; Lab 2.**