



Early Childhood Professions

Career-Technical Education Program News from the Six District Educational Compact



**Meredith Treen
(Tallmadge) at SKiP Playground**

Exploring careers in Early Childhood Professions

Early Childhood Professions students explore a variety of career opportunities as they participate in field trips throughout the school year. On trips to various centers in Summit County, they learned about the development of children from birth through school age. Students have visited Young Explorers Montessori, The Nest, Small Steps, Big Strides, Wribbenhall Child Development Center, All Around Children, and ChildScape Learn and Grow, where they interacted with young children and familiarized themselves with the diverse developmental needs of the children in the

classrooms. Each month, students visit Tallmadge Elementary and have the opportunity to learn from kindergarten and first grade teachers. Students assist teachers with small-group activities and with facilitating collaborative learning experiences. A trip to SKiP Playground in Stow provided students with the opportunity to assess the playground and learn about safety measures, supervision strategies, and the accessibility of playground spaces for children with special needs. **Lily Morris** (Stow-Munroe Falls) shares, "The field trips really opened my eyes to all the amazing career opportunities out there for working with young children!"



**Nathan Fox (Cuyahoga Falls)
prepares a storytelling activity
for the preschoolers**

Learning to lead circle time

Students begin Level I of Early Childhood Professions (ECP) by observing the daily routines of the Summit Preschool lab classrooms. One important routine in a preschooler's day is circle time. ECP students gradually take the lead on various circle time activities, including the arrival routine, songs, question of the day, calendar, graphing, classroom jobs, and storytime. Students take the child development theories and techniques they learn in class to create engaging storytelling activities. Level I student **Elizabeth Burney** (Stow-Munroe Falls) states, "Being a part of the children's learning experience is really exciting! In a short time, I have learned to

teach young children and involve them in the classroom routines and with activities we create to use at storytime to make it engaging and educational."



**Gwendolynn Greene (Stow-Munroe Falls)
applying first aid skills
learned in class**

Essential training for early childhood professionals

Students in the Early Childhood Professions program gain essential professional skills through hands-on training and real-world experiences. Instruction includes CPR, First Aid, communicable diseases, and child abuse recognition, preparing students to respond effectively to situations they may encounter when working with young children. Students also complete online trainings such as the Ohio Promise Inclusion Credential and the Science of Reading for Prekindergarten, strengthening their understanding of classroom management, inclusion, and child development. Together, these experiences equip students with the skills needed for success in early childhood education careers.



Six District Educational Compact

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Safety projects earn grant funds

Teagan Rudlosky (Stow-Munroe Falls) writes a message for the chalk walk



Hanah Kinney (Stow-Munroe Falls) facilitates a seat belt ramp experiment with the preschoolers



Olivia Harvey (Tallmadge) creating artwork for the chalk walk



Hanah Kinney and Olivia Vaughn (both from Stow-Munroe Falls), alongside their car safety trifold

The Early Childhood Professions Program received two Families Acting for Community Traffic Safety (FACTS) grants from the Ohio Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) organization for traffic safety projects completed in 2025.

For the first grant project, students organized a safety week for the children at Head Start at David Bacon, focusing on distracted driving and seat belt safety. This week-long event included various activities such as songs, crafts, a seat belt ramp experiment, a family flyer, an instructional video, and a distracted driving simulation experience. The children thoroughly enjoyed the activities and learned valuable safety lessons.

In the second grant project, students created a compelling "chalk walk" designed to raise awareness

about the dangers of distracted driving. They decorated the sidewalks and the Tallmadge football stadium entrance with vibrant chalk drawings and thought-provoking slogans. The original artwork and messages, ranging from bold warnings to emotional reminders, lined the pathway leading to the stadium during a home football game, ensuring visibility to hundreds of students, families, and community members. This creative display served as a visual reminder and a call to action, encouraging everyone to stay focused and safe while driving.

The Early Childhood Professions Program plans to use the \$2,500 grant toward FCCLA activities and to compete in the Regional and State Competitions.

Internships open doors to early childhood careers

Internships in Level II provide students with invaluable experience working with young children from birth to age twelve in early childhood settings where they can plan, prepare, and teach lessons, guide behaviors, and handle daily routines. During these experiences, the students are also gaining the necessary hours to acquire their Child Development Associate Credential (CDA). Hear from some current students regarding their experience!

"During my internship, I took the children on educational field trips providing engaging and educational experiences that aligned with their developmental needs and interests."

- Brayden Carpenter (Stow-Munroe Falls)

"The most rewarding aspect of my internship is cultivating meaningful connections with the children. I am equally inspired by witnessing their learning and growth over the course of the year."

- Makayla Lane (Cuyahoga Falls)

"My favorite part of my internship is building connections with children. I love being able to see that I'm making a difference in their lives."

- Avery Poling (Tallmadge)

