

“I admire and am proud of the educators who dedicate their careers to working with our city’s youngest learners. The foundations for literacy, social skills, and career readiness all start in quality pre-K. Philadelphia’s future depends on all students receiving quality education. Having dedicated, well-trained teachers in pre-K programs in every neighborhood will help all of our children reach their potential.” – Mayor Jim Kenney

Whether you’re just starting to think about a career in early childhood education (ECE) or ready to advance in the field, this brochure is designed to help you navigate the many training and education options in Philadelphia, including financial support opportunities.

Skilled, trained and dedicated early childhood educators play a central role in Philadelphia’s PHLpreK initiative. With increased funding for pre-K seats in Philadelphia, centers across the city are expanding and will need assistant and lead teachers who can make a lasting impact on young learners. Children ages 3-4 learn and develop at an astonishing rate, and the teachers who nurture and teach them today will shape our city’s future.

For more information about PHLpreK or to contact the Mayor’s Office of Education, visit www.PHLpreK.org

About PHLpreK

PHLpreK is the City of Philadelphia’s initiative aiming to make affordable, quality pre-K available for 6,500 three- and four-year-olds by 2020. To achieve this, the Mayor’s Office of Education is partnering with early childhood education providers to improve access to pre-K, especially in high-need areas. The program provides vital school readiness for children, and also creates living wage jobs in pre-K centers across the city – mostly small, women- and minority-owned businesses.

We expect more job growth in early education in the coming years as the program expands to include more seats, and are building training and education pipelines to recruit new professionals into the field. Learn more about career and training opportunities in this pamphlet, or by visiting www.PHLpreK.org



Education & Training Resources

for Early Childhood
Education Careers

CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE CERTIFICATION (CDA)

The Child Development Associate (CDA) credential is a widely recognized credential in early childhood education (ECE). CDA training is based on a set of competency standards and provides the core knowledge needed to work with young learners. This certification works with other degree programs and is recognized nationwide, making it an ideal first step in your ECE career.

CDA Programs:

Congreso de Latinos Unidos	2800 N. American St., Philadelphia., PA 19133 Phone: (215) 753-8873
Community College of Philadelphia	1700 Spring Garden St, Philadelphia, PA 19130 Phone: (215) 496-6127 / (215) 496-6125
District 1199C Training and Upgrading Fund	100 S. Broad St., 10 th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19110 Phone: (215) 568-2220
Esperanza College	4261 North 5th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19140 Phone: (215) 324-0746 x410
Manor College	700 Fox Chase Rd. Jenkintown, PA 19046 Phone: (215) 885-2360
Penn Literacy Network	Learn more: http://www.gse.upenn.edu/pin/courses/early_childhood
Penn State Better Kid Care	Online Program: www.extension.psu.edu/programs/betterkidcare
YMCA	Multiple locations: www.philaymca.org/programs/child-development/cda-class-schedule/

ASSOCIATE OF THE ARTS (AA) DEGREE

An Associate's degree program focused on early childhood education will allow you to gain knowledge in topics such as child development, learning assessments and observations, special learners, classroom management, and instructional strategies. This post-secondary degree equips you with additional foundational skills that are necessary for working in the ECE field.

AA programs:

Community College of Philadelphia	Philadelphia, PA
Esperanza College	Philadelphia, PA
Harcum College	Bryn Mawr, PA
Delaware Community College	Marple, Sharon Hill, Exton, Upper Darby, Downingtown, West Grove and Phoenixville, PA
Manor College	Jenkintown, PA
Montgomery Community College	Blue Bell, Pottstown and Landsdale, PA

BACHELOR'S DEGREE (BA/BS)

A Bachelor's program focused on early childhood education will allow you to gain the skills important to shaping the academic, social, and cognitive skills of young learners. This post-secondary degree is designed to equip you with the skills necessary to begin, or advance in, a career as an educator.

BA/BS Programs:

Arcadia University	Glenside, PA
Cabrini University	Radnor, PA
Chestnut Hill College	Philadelphia, PA
Cheyney University	Cheyney, PA
Drexel University	Philadelphia, PA
Eastern University	St. Davids, PA
Gwynedd Mercy University	Gwynedd Valley, PA
Holy Family University	Philadelphia, Newtown and Bensalem, PA
La Salle University	Philadelphia, PA
Neumann University	Aston, PA
Penn State Abington	Abington, PA
Saint Joseph's University	Philadelphia, PA
Temple University	Philadelphia, PA
Widener University	Widener, PA
West Chester University	West Chester, PA

All schools listed offer PreK-4th teaching certifications

MASTER'S DEGREE (MA/MS):

A Master's program focused on early childhood education will equip you with advanced skills for working with young children. You can expand your current expertise to better understand child development while obtaining knowledge to become an educational leader.

MA/MS Programs:

Arcadia University	Glenside, PA
Cabrini University	Radnor, PA
Cheyney University	Cheyney, PA
La Salle University	Philadelphia, PA
Lincoln University	Lincoln University, PA
Neumann University	Aston, PA
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia, PA
Saint Joseph's University	Philadelphia, PA
Temple University	Philadelphia, PA
Widener University	Widener, PA
West Chester University	West Chester, PA

All schools listed offer PreK-4th teaching certifications

CAREER SUPPORT

Not sure what path to choose or how to land the career you want? These supports can guide you through your transition to an advanced ECE education.

CAREER LINK

Services include:

- Resume Workshops
- Free Career Counseling
- Job Search Assistance
- Interview Skills Training
- Skills Assessment
- Job Fairs
- Training Opportunity Exploration
- Computer Training
- Free Access to a Computer Lab

<https://www.pacareerlink.pa.gov/PaCareerLink/Index.htm>



GRADUATE PHILADELPHIA

Graduate! Philadelphia supports students who have some college credit and want to go back to school to complete their two- or four-year degree. Graduate! will connect you to a case manager who will guide you through the financial aid and program selection process. <http://graduate-network.org/>



FUNDING

Your education is a worthwhile investment, and there are programs to help you pay for it, including one specially designed for early childhood educators.

T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps)

Early Childhood® PENNSYLVANIA

The T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Program works with early childhood providers, colleges and child care staff to offer scholarship programs. To receive this scholarship, you have work at least part time at a center that is in the Keystone STARS system.

<https://www.pacca.org/teach.php>

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

Through the US department of education, students can apply for federal need based funding and use the grant and loan opportunities at any accredited degree program.

<https://www.fafsa.gov>