Springfield COLLEGE

English



Early Childhood Assistant Diploma Program

(Approved as a vocational program under the Ontario Career Colleges Act, 2005)

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Early Childhood Assistant
- Childcare Assistant
- Daycare Assistant
- Nursery School Assistant
- Preschool Assistant
- Before-and-After-School Assistant
- Licensed childcare centres
- Daycare and preschool settings
- Nursery schools
- School-age childcare services

Government Grants, Scholarships, and Financial Aid May be Available For Those Who Qualify.

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Early Childhood Assistant Program

Program Objectives

The Early Childhood Assistant Diploma Program at Springfield College prepares students to support the education, development, and well-being of young children in structured early learning environments. The program combines child development principles with practical techniques for assisting educators and promoting positive daily experiences for children.

Students explore physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and language development while learning to create safe, inclusive, and engaging environments. Two separate supervised placements provide opportunities to apply classroom learning in childcare settings.

Program Outline

1. Foundations of Early Childhood Education: Principles of early learning, childcare practices, and the responsibilities of an Early Childhood Assistant.
2. Infant and Child Development: Physical, cognitive, language, social, and emotional growth from infancy through childhood.
3. Health, Safety, and Nutrition: Safe environments, hygiene, illness prevention, healthy meals, and daily routines.
4. Observation and Documentation: Observing behaviour and developmental progress and recording appropriate observations.
5. Play-Based Learning: Age-appropriate activities that encourage creativity, exploration, cooperation, and discovery.
6. Child Guidance: Positive behaviour strategies, emotional regulation, and supportive conflict resolution.
7. Inclusive Learning Environments: Supporting children with varied abilities, needs, cultures, and languages.
8. Child, Family, and Community: Working respectfully with families and recognizing community resources.
9. Professional Communication: Ethics, teamwork, communication, and appropriate professional boundaries.
10. Practicum Placements I and II: Supervised opportunities to connect learning with everyday childcare responsibilities.

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Program Highlights

- Foundational instruction in childhood development and early learning practices.
- Emphasis on play-based learning, positive behaviors guidance, and inclusion.
- Practical approaches to health, safety, nutrition, and daily care routines.
- Two separate supervised practicum placements.
- Preparation to collaborate with educators, families, and childcare teams.

Career Opportunities

Graduates may seek entry-level childcare support roles where they assist qualified educators, supervise routines, and help implement age-appropriate activities. The diploma may also provide a foundation for further studies, subject to another institution's admission and transfer policies.

Skills Acquisition

Students can develop skills to:

- Support children's physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development.
- Assist with play-based learning and age-appropriate activities.
- Use positive guidance and encourage healthy interactions.
- Maintain safe, clean, inclusive, and nurturing spaces.
- Observe and document development appropriately.
- Communicate with educators, families, and colleagues.
- Support hygiene, nutrition, rest, and daily routines.
- Apply ethical practices, cultural sensitivity, and professional boundaries.

English