

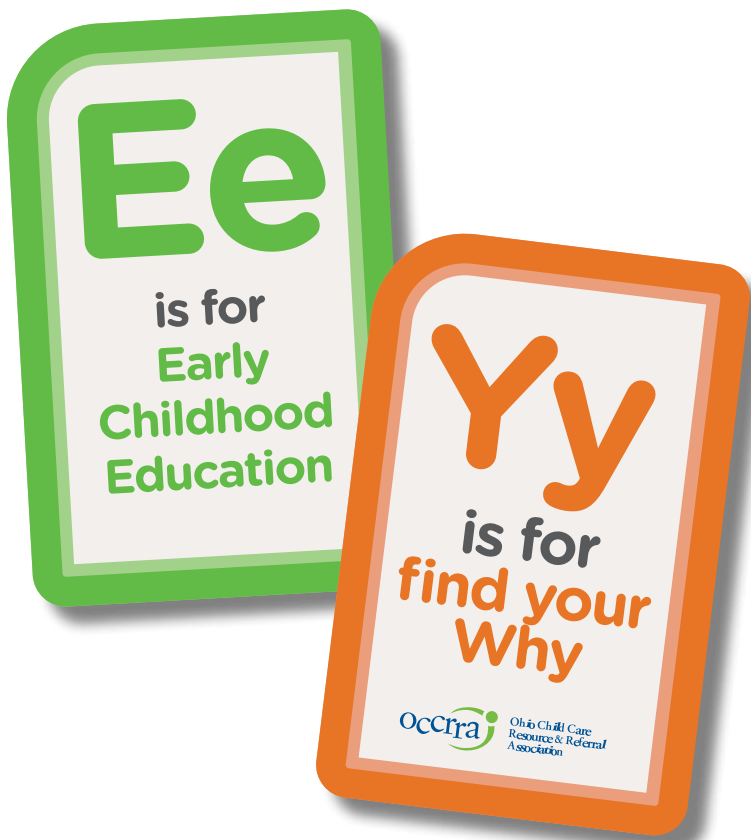
The  
**ABC<sup>s</sup>**

**Of Early  
Childhood  
Education  
Careers**



Ohio Child Care  
Resource & Referral  
Association





## Find your why.

A career in Early Childhood Education (ECE) is challenging and rewarding and can have a lasting influence on children, families, and society. Between birth and kindergarten, children experience remarkable developmental changes, and as an Early Childhood Educator, you can have an amazing impact.

Early Childhood Educators are aware the early years for children are a time of intense learning and development. They understand they play a tremendous, positive role in a child's future. Recent research in brain development has confirmed the critical need for positive experiences in young children's lives, especially from trained Early Childhood Educators.

Whether you are just getting started or looking to advance your Career, there are so many reasons "WHY" Early Childhood Education is right for you.

## What is Early Childhood Education?

**A growing industry as unique as the children it serves.**

ECE is not daycare. The Early Childhood Education career path happens in multiple settings, from Child Care Centers to a Family Child Care Educator's home. No matter where you choose to work with children, the goal is always the same—to make a positive difference in the lives of children, families, and community.

### Where can you work as an Early Childhood Educator in Ohio?

**Child Care Center:** A Child Care Center is any facility that serves twelve or more children at one time.

**Preschool:** Preschool programs support early learning for students before kindergarten entry.

**Family Child Care:** Child Care that occurs in the educator's home that serves twelve or less children.

**School-age/Afterschool Care:** School Age programs support students from kindergarten on up.





In this profession, we are **“The Workforce behind the Workforce.”**



In Ohio, Early Childhood Educators have a Critical Job classification. Critical jobs ensure that our state’s workforce supports the health and well-being of Ohioans, their families, and our communities. Governor DeWine made developing the workforce in critical job areas, such as early childhood education, mental/behavioral health, and recovery, a priority because of their impact on the lives of Ohioans at every stage of life.



## What type of Early Childhood Educator are you?

### Early Childhood Education Educators

Between birth and kindergarten, children experience remarkable growth and developmental changes. Each child in child care deserves a dedicated and knowledgeable educator to care for them, positively impact their development, and prepare them for school success. You, as the educator, will have the opportunity to be that person and will experience the satisfaction of knowing how vital your role is in the life of that child and family.

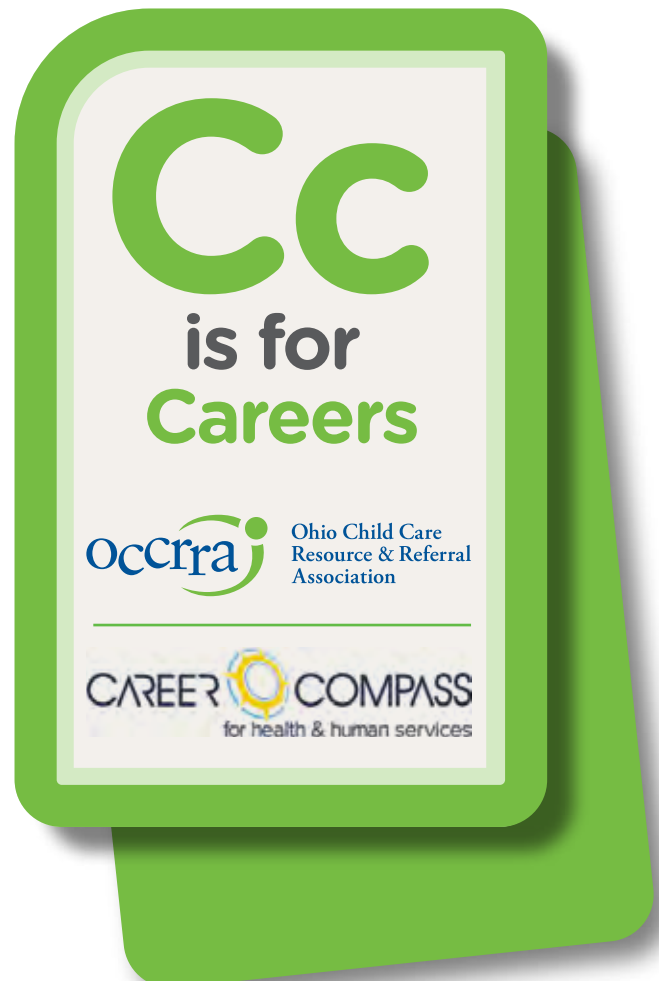
#### ECE educators:

- Bb** **Build** a nurturing relationship with each child.
- Li** **Laugh**, smile, listen, talk, read, play, and learn with children.
- Kk** Are **knowledgeable** in child growth and development.
- li** **Implement activities** to develop children's math, science, language, and literacy skills.
- Pp** **Provide opportunities** to play and learn indoors and outdoors.
- Ss** **Support** the development of social-emotional skills.
- Mm** **Maintain** a safe, healthy, and engaging environment.
- Cc** **Communicate** with a diverse population of children and families.
- Ww** **Work alongside ECE professionals** with similar interests and goals.



### Administrators of Child Care Centers

Educators may want to advance their careers in the ECE field, and being a center administrator may be the next step. Administrators have the rewarding job of ensuring the center offers a high-quality early care and education experience in a safe and healthy environment for children and their families. This provides families comfort knowing their child is being well cared for when they can't be there. Administrators need to operate a business with sound business practices, effectively manage employees, and recruit and partner with families. These are not easy tasks. Successful administrators take specialized education and training and have vast relevant experience. All of these provide administrators with the skills to master their many roles. Administrators may choose to earn Ohio's Administrator Credential. Visit [www.occra.org](http://www.occra.org) to learn more.





### Child Development Associates Credential (CDA) and Degrees:

The Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential is the most widely recognized credential in Early Childhood Education (ECE) in the U.S. [1] The Council for Professional Recognition awards the credential. To earn a CDA, applicants must demonstrate competency in areas that support children's healthy growth and development, in center-based care or family child care.

### Where to get your certification or degree:

College Profiles are compiled annually from the Ohio colleges and universities that partner with T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® OHIO. This information will help you understand the offered degrees, student services, and contact information.

### Find information about colleges and universities in your area here:

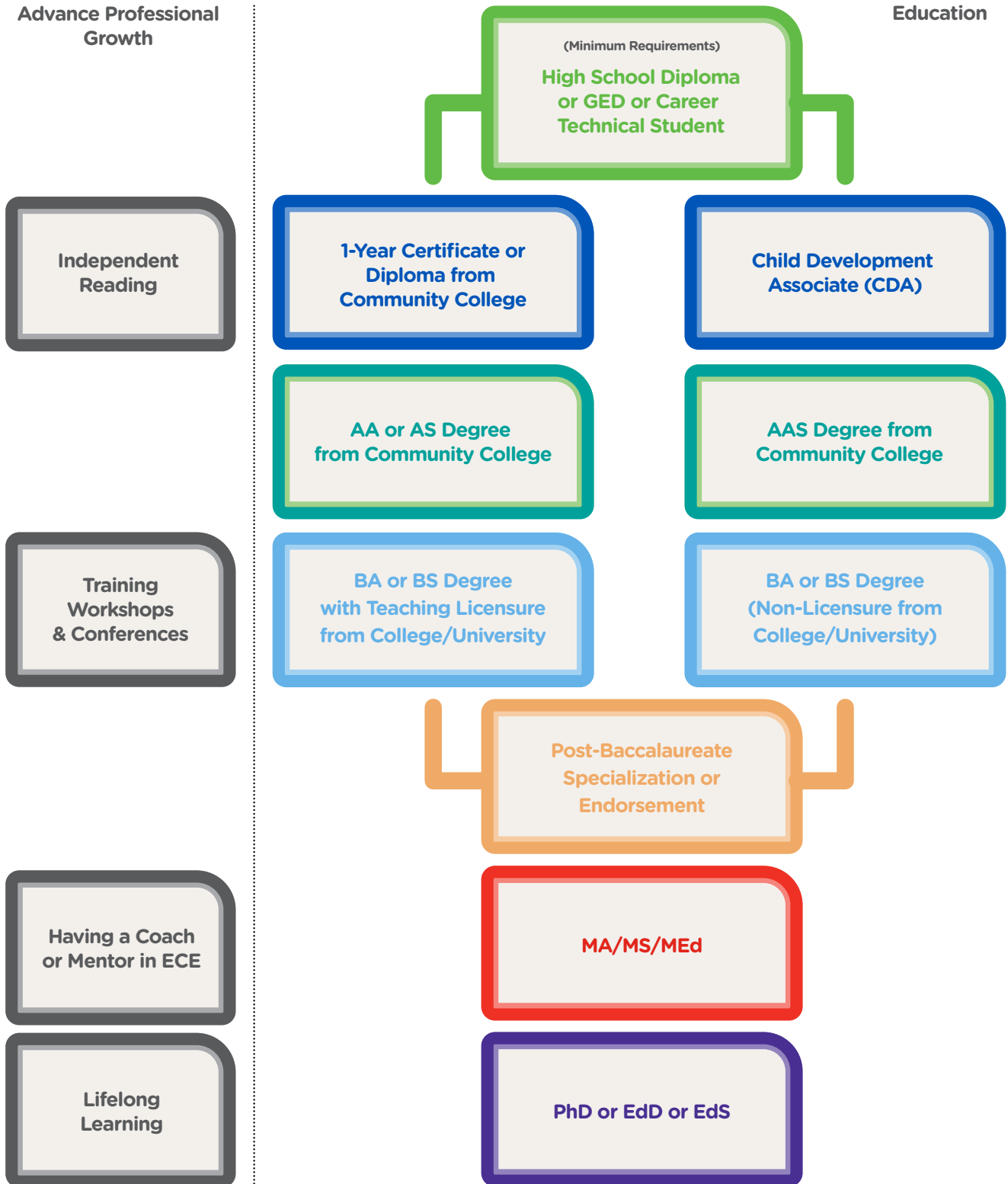
<https://occcra.org/workforce-development/college-profiles/> or scan the code below:

**Scholarships available:** TEACH Early Childhood® OHIO is a compensation and retention program for Child Care professionals. In 23 states, TEACH addresses education, compensation, and turnover issues affecting Early Childhood Educators. Assistance is available for tuition, books, and related education expenses.

**Wages supplements available:** POWER is an acronym for Powering Optimal Wages and Encouraging Retention. The program's purpose is to provide additional funds to professionals and increase these trained professionals' retention in programs.



# The pathways to start and advance as an Early Childhood Educator.





**Never stop learning: Advancing your training and education in Early Childhood Education.**

**Take the first step.** No matter where you are in your career decision, there is always a starting point.

**Create a Profile in the Ohio Professional Registry:** The Ohio Professional Registry (OPR) is Ohio's workforce registry information system that promotes individual professional growth and development. The OPR is a comprehensive learning management system for employment, professional development, education, and credentials. It captures data about early childhood, child-serving agencies, and school-age professionals in various roles and settings.

**Minimum Requirements and Background Check.** Anyone working alone with children in a licensed child care setting are required to have a minimum of a High School Diploma/Equivalent or higher education. High School Junior Students enrolled in a Career Tech Program, enrolled in a Child Development Associate (CDA) training program or achieved a CDA credential for the age group or enrolled in a college credit program with early childhood education or child development focus are eligible to begin working at a child care center. In addition to the education

requirement, child care staff members will need to have a background check, completed medical statement and required professional development.

**Work in a career that makes a difference.**

The top reason people choose to pursue a career in Early Childhood Education is the personal reward and satisfaction that it brings. Early childhood educators have the genuine opportunity to make a difference in the young lives of future generations. They ensure children get off to a good start being ready for school and life. They get to experience the joy of seeing children explore, succeed and will witness incredible achievements like, "I did it!".

**Begin your career as an Early Childhood Educator today.**

**Visit our website: [occrra.org](http://occrra.org)**



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