

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & CHILDCARE CAREER GUIDE



Careers in early childhood education and childcare are crucial to working parents and in shaping the next generation of Kansans. With a shortage of professions in these areas, there's never been a better time to start a career that focuses on kids. Use this guide to decide if this high-energy, highly rewarding career working with young kids is for you. Then visit [LevelUpKS.com](https://www.levelupks.com) and complete the form to find out if you can earn a degree or certificate for **FREE!**

## BY THE NUMBERS

### AVERAGE SALARY

\$13.26/hour | \$27,579/year

DEMAND  
VERY HIGH

### EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

License to Associate Degree  
(3 months to 2 years)

### EDUCATION LOCATIONS

20+ community colleges and technical schools, online and in-person program options

## HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS

- In-Home Childcare
- Daycare Centers & Preschools
- Paraeducator in Elementary Education

Read the guide to learn more about each position.

## IS IT RIGHT FOR YOU?

If this sounds like you, you may be a good fit.

- Find great joy in working with children
- Have a high level of patience
- Thrive in a creative, energetic environment
- Easily express empathy and compassion
- Want the option to care for your own children while working out of your home

## TYPES OF EDUCATION

- **Certificates** – short, skill-focused programs
- **Associate Degrees** – general education and specific training
- **Apprenticeships** – on-the-job training with education



# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & CHILDCARE CERTIFICATES AND ASSOCIATE DEGREES



## GET STARTED IN 2 YEARS

### CHILDCARE

#### > IN-HOME CHILDCARE PROVIDER

**Average Salary:** \$12.82/hour | \$26,676/year

**Education Required:** Licensing and/or Associate Degree

**Time to complete education:** 3 months – 2 years

In-Home Childcare Providers care for children in a home setting by supervising their safety, attending to their basic needs, and facilitating educational and play activities that promote development. They also communicate with parents, maintain a structured routine, and ensure a clean and supportive environment.

Kansas offers a variety of incentives to help qualified individuals start their own in-home childcare centers, at no cost to you.

#### > DAYCARE PROVIDER/PRESCHOOL TEACHER

**Average Salary:** \$13.04/hour | \$27,125/year

**Education Required:** Licensing and/or Associate Degree

**Time to complete education:** 3 months – 2 years

Daycare Providers care for children in a group setting, ensuring their safety and attending to their basic needs such as feeding, hygiene, and rest. They also plan and lead age-appropriate educational and recreational activities that promote learning, social interaction, and overall development while maintaining communication with parents regarding each child's progress and any concerns.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

#### > PARAEDUCATOR

**Average Salary:** \$13.91/hour | \$28,937/year

**Education Required:** Some college – Associate Degree

**Time to complete education:** 1-2 years

Paraeducators support teachers by assisting with classroom management, supervising students, and providing additional instruction to small groups or individual students. They help reinforce lessons, assist students with special needs, prepare teaching materials, and foster a positive learning environment, ensuring that students receive the attention and support they need to succeed academically and socially.

Current childcare employees can level up their skills through education to go from a childcare worker to a para educator or an elementary school teacher. Many Kansas school districts offer teacher apprenticeships alongside education to build a childcare education pipeline into our public schools.



## READY TO GO?

Visit [LevelUpKS.com](https://LevelUpKS.com) and complete the form to find out if you can earn a degree or certificate for **FREE!**

*Level Up Kansas is a free service for Kansans 18+*

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & CHILDCARE



## JOBS AT A GLANCE

CAREER PATH	AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE	AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY	LESS THAN ONE YEAR CERTIFICATE	1-2 YEAR CERTIFICATE	2 YEAR ASSOCIATE DEGREE
In-Home Care Provider	\$12.82	\$26,676	✓		
Daycare Provider/ Preschool Teacher	\$13.04	\$27,125	✓		
Paraeducator	\$13.91	\$28,937		✓	✓

### READY TO GO BUT NOT SURE WHERE TO START?

We're here to help. Level Up Kansas is a **FREE** service for Kansans 18+. We provide unbiased information about certificates and 2-year degree programs at Kansas community colleges and technical colleges. We can also provide resources to help you find existing scholarships and financial aid opportunities that may be available to you.

To get started, visit [LevelUpKS.com](https://levelupks.com) and complete the form to work with our free navigator service. We'll help you figure out your next steps.

### STILL HAVEN'T FOUND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?

Don't give up. Check out the career guides for Healthcare, Manufacturing, Construction Trades, Computer Science, and Agriculture on our website.

