

CHILD CARE WORKER

{ JOB DESCRIPTION }

Attend to children at schools, businesses, private households, and child care institutions. Perform a variety of tasks, such as dressing, feeding, bathing, and overseeing play.

{ SKILLS AND APTITUDES NEEDED }

- Ability to work well individually or as a team
- Enjoy working and playing with children from diverse ethnic backgrounds
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Knowledge of children's developmental stages
- Good organizational skills to establish routine for children and coordinate activities
- Motivational skills to keep students learning and to recruit volunteers
- Provide physical and emotional security for children

{ SOUTH PLAINS }

Avg. Wage
\$6.58

Avg. Annual
Job Openings
49

Employment in
1998 2008
1,368 1,729

{ TEXAS }

Avg. Wage
\$6.44

Avg. Annual
Job Openings
3,186

Employment in
1998 2008
98,755 120,902

{ U.S. EMPLOYMENT }

In 1998
904,542

Female **95%**
Minority **35%**

Preschool teachers and child-care workers nurture and teach preschool children—age 5 or younger—in child-care centers, nursery schools, preschools, public schools, and family child-care homes. These workers play an important role in a child's development by caring for the child when parents are at work or away for other reasons. Some parents enroll their children in nursery schools or child-care centers primarily to provide them with the opportunity to interact with other children. In addition to attending to children's basic needs, these workers organize activities that stimulate the children's physical, emotional, intellectual, and social growth. They help children explore their interests, develop their talents and independence, build self-esteem, and learn how to behave with others.

Preschool teachers and child-care workers spend most of their day working with children. However, they do maintain contact with parents or guardians, through informal meetings or scheduled conferences, to discuss each child's progress and needs. Many preschool teachers and child-care workers keep records of each child's progress and suggest ways that parents can increase their child's learning and development at home. Some preschools and child-care centers actively recruit parent volunteers to work with the children and participate in administrative decisions and program planning.

Most preschool teachers and child-care workers perform a combination of basic care and teaching duties. Through many basic care activities, preschool teachers and child-care workers provide opportunities for children to learn. For example, a worker who shows a child how to tie a shoe teaches the child and also provides for that child's basic care needs. Preschool and child-care programs help children learn about trust and gain a sense of security.

HUMAN SERVICES CAREERS



{ PREFERRED EDUCATION }

- Community college courses
- College degree in child development or early childhood education

{ LICENSE / CERTIFICATION }

- CPR Certification required

{ REGIONAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS }

- **SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE** - Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.), Child Development; Certificate of Proficiency, Early Childhood Education; Certificate of Proficiency, Early Childhood Administrator; Certificate of Proficiency, Family Advocate
- **TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY** - Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Early Childhood Education
- **LUBBOCK CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY** - Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Interdisciplinary Studies, Early Childhood

{ JOB SITES }

Child Care Services	57%
Self-Employed	33%
Civic/Social Associations	3%

{ FOR MORE INFORMATION }

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION
OF YOUNG CHILDREN
1509 16th St. NW., Washington, DC 20036.
www.naeyc.org

ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDHOOD EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL
17904 Georgia Ave., Suite 215, Olney, MD 20832-2277.

COUNCIL FOR PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION
2460 16th St. NW. Washington, DC 20009
www.cdacouncil.org

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE
525 SW 5th St., Suite A, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-4501.
www.nafcc.org

CENTER FOR THE CHILD CARE WORKFORCE
733 15th St. NW., Suite 1037, Washington, DC 20005
www.ccw.org

State Departments of Human Services or Social Services can supply State regulations and training requirements for child-care workers.