Early childhood education training is structured to teach both the theoretical and practical sides of early childhood development for children up to age 12 years, with a focus on the years before age 6.

Course content covers basic health, safety, behaviour, and development as well as how to understand children’s environments and mechanisms of early learning. Students learn to plan early childhood education curriculums for a variety of levels, and develop writing and communication skills to work with children, families, and colleagues.

Many ECE programs include field placement opportunities, placing students in a variety of settings for real-world experience such as in preschools, child care centres, hospitals, and Kindergarten.

Many colleges offer this program at entry level, meaning only a secondary school diploma or equivalent is required. Additional requirements could include health certificates and immunizations, police record checks, first aid training, and admissions testing. Experience working with young children is seen as a definite asset and is required by institutions.

**Early Childhood Education Careers**

Early childhood education credentials can lead to a number of positions, including but not limited to:

- Early childhood educator working in licensed child care or Kindergarten/pre-Kindergarten
- Early intervention services
- Program consulting and support
- Quality assessment
- Family support services
- Health and community services, such as shelters and emergency response
- Immigration and settlement services

**ATLANTIC CANADA**

The Atlantic provinces offer recognized early childhood training in twelve public and three private institutions. All public institution programs have a prerequisite of a high school diploma or a previous college diploma, or bachelor degree. Private institutions require an interview and high school equivalency. Distance learning options are available.

**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR**

One public college offers ECE certificate and diploma programs.

College of the North Atlantic

- One year certificate or two year diploma options: offering full- and part-time enrolment in three different ECE streams.
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
Two public colleges offer ECE certificate and diploma programs.

Collège de l’île
• One year certificate or two year diploma

Holland College
• Two year diploma

NOVA SCOTIA
Four colleges and two universities offer ECE certificate, diploma and degree programs.
Public colleges offering two year diploma programs with full- and part-time enrolment:

Jane Norman College
Nova Scotia Community College
Nova Scotia School of Early Childhood Education

Universities
Mount Saint Vincent University
• Four year Bachelor of Arts in Child and Youth Studies with full- and part-time enrolment and remote learning options.
Université Sainte-Anne

Private College
CBBC Career College
• 48-week program

Island Career Academy

NEW BRUNSWICK
Four colleges and one university offer ECE certificate, diploma and degree programs.
Public colleges offering a one year certificate program:

Collège communautaire du Nouveau Brunswick- CCNB
New Brunswick Community College
Union of New Brunswick Indians Training Institute

University:
University of New Brunswick
• Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Education is an online blended degree program (diploma plus university courses) that allows the graduate to work with children from infancy to Grade 3.

Private college:
Oulton College
• Two year degree program
QUEBEC

17 Cégep, eight colleges and three universities offer ECE certificate, diploma and degree programs.

Cégeps are public schools providing the first level of post-secondary education. Qualified ECEs complete three years at a Cégep followed by a two or three year college course.

Cégeps:
- Cégep de Beauce-Appalaches
- Cégep de Drummondville
- Cégep de Granby-Haute-Yamaska
- Cégep de Jonquière
- Cégep de l‘Abitibi-Témiscamingue
- Cégep de l‘Outaouais
- Cégep de Rimouski
- Cégep de Rivière-du-Loup
- Cégep de Saint-Hyacinthe
- Cégep de Saint-Jérôme
- Cégep de Sainte-Foy
- Cégep de Sherbrooke
- Cégep de Vieux Montréal
- Cégep Heritage College
- Cégep Marie-Victorin
- Cégep régional de Lanaudière
- Cégep St-Félicien

Colleges offering two and three year diploma programs:
- Collège CDI
- Collège de Valleyfield
- Collège Édouard-Montpetit
- Collège LaSalle
- Collège Montmorency
- Collège Shawinigan
- Collège TAV
- Vanier College
Universities:

Concordia University
- Early Childhood and Elementary Teacher Certification Program (ECEE)
- Child Studies BA Major
- Child Studies MA

Université de Sherbrooke
Université TÉLUQ

ONTARIO

28 colleges and six universities offer a range of programs, including a one year certificate for early childhood assistants, a two year diploma (the minimum qualification for recognition by the College of Early Childhood Educators), and four year degrees. Agreements between selected colleges and universities allow ECE diploma holders to add two years at a university to earn an ECE degree. Full- and part-time options are available, along with distance learning.

Public colleges:
Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology
Anishinabek Educational Institute
- Native Early Childhood Education Diploma
Cambrian College
Canadore College
Centennial College
Collège Boréal
Conestoga College
Confederation College
Durham College
Fanshawe College
Fleming College
George Brown College
Georgian College
Humber College
La Cité collégiale
Lambton College
Loyalist College
Mohawk College
Niagara College
Northern College
Sault College
Seneca College
Sheridan College
St. Clair College
St. Lawrence College

Private colleges:
Anderson College
• Early childcare assistant

Evergreen College
• Early childhood assistant

Mothercraft College
12-month ECE course enables graduates to register with the College of Early Childhood Educators.

Universities:
Carleton University
• Child Studies – BA Honours
• Child Studies – BA General

University of Guelph
• Honours Bachelor of Applied Science in Early Childhood & Diploma in Early Childhood Education
• Early Childhood Degree Completion – Honours Bachelor of Applied Science in Early Childhood
• Family and Child Studies Honours BA

Ryerson University
• Early Childhood Education BA
• Early Childhood Studies MA
• Early Childhood Education BA
• BA in Early Childhood Education Degree Completion

University of Windsor
• Concurrent BA/BEd/ECE – Arts & Education and Early Childhood Education

York University
• Early Childhood Education Graduate Diploma
• Children’s Studies BA

Private university:
Charles Sturt University
• Bachelor of Early Childhood Studies, Honours
MANITOBA
Five colleges offer two year diploma programs. Four universities provide advanced diploma programs or allow students to combine their ECE diploma with a three-year Bachelor of Arts degree in Child Development and Child Care.

Colleges:
Assiniboine Community College
Louis Riel Vocational College
Manitoba Institute of Trades & Technology
Red River College
Robertson College

Universities:
University College of the North
Université de Saint-Boniface
University of Manitoba
University of Winnipeg

SASKATCHEWAN
Seven colleges offer two year diplomas with full- and part-time options. Two universities provide extension courses for educators or allow students to study for their early childhood specialty certificate concurrently with a Bachelor of Education degree.

Colleges:
Carlton Trail Regional College
Great Plains College
Lakeland College
Parkland Regional College
Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology
Saskatchewan Polytechnic
Southeast Regional College

Universities:
University of Regina
University of Saskatchewan

ALBERTA
Twelve colleges and four universities offer one year certificate programs and two year diploma courses, on a full- or part-time basis. ECE diploma holders may apply directly for entry into the third year of the Bachelor of Child Studies degree program.
Colleges:
Blue Quills First Nations College
Bow Valley College
CDI College
Grande Prairie Regional College
Keyano College
Lakeland College
Lethbridge College
Medicine Hat College
Northern Lakes College
Northern Lights College
Portage College
Red Deer College

Universities:
University of Alberta
Concordia University of Edmonton
MacEwan University
Mount Royal University
  • Bachelor of Child Studies, with an ECE major

BRITISH COLUMBIA
Thirteen colleges and seven universities offer one year certificate, two year diploma, and four year degree programs on a full- or part-time basis. Successful completion of the first two years of an ECE degree program allows holders to apply for their ECE certificate to practice. An ECCE degree also provides holders with a pathway to elementary teacher education certification.

Colleges:
Camosun College
Coast Mountain College
College of New Caledonia
College of the Rockies
Douglas College
Langara College
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
North Island College
Northern Lights College
Okanagan College
Selkirk College
Stenberg College
Vancouver Community College

Universities:
Capilano University
Simon Fraser University
Thompson Rivers University
University of British Columbia
University of the Fraser Valley
University of Victoria
Vancouver Island University

YUKON
One college offers one year certificate and two year diploma programs.

Yukon College

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
One college offers one year certificate and two year diploma programs.

Aurora College

NUNAVUT
One college offers one year certificate and two year diploma programs.

Nunavut Arctic College