



Welcome to Early Childhood Education at North Seattle Community College

9600 College Way N., Seattle WA 98103
ecenorth.com

North Seattle's Early Childhood Education program challenges people to become authentic, skillful, effective teachers of very young children. We have created an integrated series of learning experiences that are at the forefront of current knowledge and professional practice in early education.

Our Early Childhood Program

Our mission is to improve the quality of the early childhood education in our community. We want more great places for children to grow into self-confident, socially adept young people. We do that through each and every course, improving the effectiveness of those adults to facilitate learning and enhance the lives of young children.

Classes are exploratory, experiential, and learner-centered. We endeavor to model how education builds from the learner, so our graduates will be able to provide for their children learning experiences that are exploratory, experiential, and learner-centered. In every class we teach we endeavor to create a democratic, cooperative learning community.

What makes this program different?

- ❑ We apply reflective practice as the basis for professional teaching.
- ❑ We continually examine what we do and what we value.
- ❑ We objectively describe and analyze the physical reality of what occurs.
- ❑ We collaboratively invent ways to fix discrepancies between what we intend and what actually occurred.
- ❑ We keep open to the possibility of new challenges in our own learning.

We emphasize practical methods. Most of our courses require the students to undertake experiences where they can discover the essential understandings through actual work with children, practice the methods that work effectively, and prove that they actually are doing them well.

"I have taken early childhood classes at three community colleges and I believe that NSCC has the highest quality program and staff."

If you want to really learn how to help young children and their families grow, this is the place. We are accessible, relatively inexpensive, and directly responsive to you.

Associate of Applied Sciences Degree (AAS) in Early Childhood

We offer a 90 -credit professional/technical degree in teaching young children. Attending full time, students can complete the program in two years. However, most students take less than a full course load because they are working full time with children; many take three or four years to complete the requirements for an **Associate of Applied Sciences Degree (AAS) in Early Childhood Education**.

This degree is a significant accomplishment. It carries the recognition that you are someone who is good with children and able to lead others in creating great schools. Most employers in the Seattle area actively seek to hire graduates with an AAS Degree from North Seattle Community College because they know they can teach well.

"I thought everyone learned similar things when they took early childhood education courses in college. I realized when I entered a job that North

Seattle has a very unique program. I feel far better educated than my co-workers with degrees from other colleges and universities."

NOTE WELL: As a professional/technical degree, this AAS is a terminal degree like a degree in Real Estate or Computer Assisted Drafting; it leads directly to the world of work, not to other academic degrees. The AAS, has limited transferability to higher education at four-year colleges. However, The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, will honor all of these professional/technical credits. If you decide later that you want a BA in Early Childhood, you can transfer there and have all your early childhood credits apply.

"This program challenges its students to not only learn the material it also makes them evaluate their ability to do the job of a quality teacher."

We choose to offer an AAS professional/technical degree because we care to directly influence the quality of the education experience of young children in our community. We require 70 credits of early childhood education courses because there is a lot to learn.

You Will Make a Difference in the Lives of Children

Many students enter our program having already earned BA degrees. They choose to enroll in our courses because they know that at North Seattle Community College they can really learn to become the teacher they have dreamed of being. Each class transforms its participants in unforeseeable ways. Because you have the support of others and the clarity of your own developing values, you will change the way you are with children, forever.

"This program encourages not only the knowledge but also the authenticity in giving what the children really need."

The investment you make in yourself by taking these courses will result in a fuller, richer life for yourself and fuller, richer lives of the children you touch, on and on, into the future.

"I find I am more open-minded and respectful of children than others who have not gone to North. Even those with Masters degrees don't know how to talk to children or how to handle situations."

You Have Choices

We have no prescribed course sequence, such as a nursing program might have. Courses are offered at night, for the most part, since most of our students are currently working with children. You can take the courses you want that fit within your schedule. An advisor or other students in the program can help you select the best classes for you.

We recommend that people start with CCE 160: Connecting to Children, CCE 125: Program Planning (3 to 5 year-old programs), and CCE 135: Foundations of Early Learning (birth to 2 year-old programs). We ask that people keep CCE 292: Classroom Research for the very last.

Most people choose what fits in their schedules. They try one class and then return to take more classes, not because they are required to but because they see the value.

"North provides an education that truly prepares their students to work well with children. The students learn curriculum ideas, how to speak with children, how to observe children, what children need, how to meet their needs, and many more skills."

We know each person makes a wise investment in his or her self by completing each class. People are happier with themselves and happier with children.

Honoring Your Experience

If you have a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential current or expired, you earn advanced placement in the program. When you apply to graduate we award you with 12 credits and waive the requirement to enroll in CCE 292: Classroom Research. We also can award advanced placement credit from workshops and community education experiences that exactly correspond to our courses if you can document an equivalent number of hours.

We are one of the few programs with 20 credits of elective courses; most others don't offer choices. This flexibility enables people to transfer early childhood education credits from other colleges without a loss. Those classes you may have that do not exactly correspond to North's can count toward your 20 credits of electives.

Certificates in Early Childhood Education

The **Assistant Certificate** is earned by completing the four, 2-credit, modules of CCE 160, *Connecting to Children*. These are challenges teachers complete while working with young children in schools, home, center or nanny care. Module D1 explores being positive. Module D2 explores being playful. Module D3 explores being informative. Module D4 explores helping children start new things, do them with others, and complete them. The Assistant Certificate documents that you know how to interact effectively with children. You can apply for graduation and march in cap and gown in June.

The **Certificate in Early Childhood Education** is earned by completing the curriculum courses that cover music, art, math, PE, reading and play activities, plus one elective course in addition to the CCE 160 D Modules, for a total of 32 credits. The Certificate in ECE proves you can present engaging learning activities for young children. Many of our International Students choose this because they can complete it in one year as they finish their English studies.

Advising

Three people can help you if you want advice about what to do or need more information. Tom Drummond is the coordinator. Noris Daniel is the other full time faculty member. Sara Stiers is the staff expert who holds us all together.

If you want to talk about how your past experience fits into the program, about how this program fits into your life goals and aspirations, review your progress in the program, or plan your education quarter by quarter, see Tom. Otherwise any of us can usually help you. Sara is the one who is always here during the day.

Questions Many Ask

Q: How do I start?

First you have to apply to the college, usually by completing the application on line enroll.northseattle.edu.

Q: What courses do I take first?

Generally, the 100 level courses are the better ones to take in the beginning. The 200 level courses expect you to know a lot about early education. Outside of that general guideline, you can, for the most part choose what you want to take. You cannot take either of the two Professional Practice courses, CCE 160: *Connecting to Children* nor CCE 292: *Classroom Research*, without division permission. We want to make sure those courses are right for you.

Q: Can I get financial aid?

You can contact the financial aid office to receive a Financial Aid Guide, financialaid.northseattle.edu Scholarships are also available for tuition, books and expenses from the North Seattle Community College

Foundation. The first step for eligibility is to complete a FAFSA on line at www.fafsa.ed.gov. If you are currently working with children the Washington T.E.A.C.H. program can pay for most of your education, (866)-3OTEACH or www.childcarenet.org.

Q: Can I get a teaching certificate from North?

We do not offer a Teaching Certificate to teach in the K-12 public schools, because we are not a four-year university.

Q: Do you have courses on line?

We have no on-line courses. The quality of our classes depends upon the face-to-face discussions and close friendships developed in every class.

Q: What do I have to do to take the CCE 160 Connecting to Children modules?

The purpose of these modules is to change the way adults relate to children. This is actual change in behavior, not simply talking about changing behavior. It takes time and continued contact with the same children. This is a class about relationships.

You must be working with children, older than 12 months. They can be of school age. If you are a parent or a nanny you can use your child or children.

You can also meet this requirement by being a regular volunteer where you can develop relationships with children. That means spending a minimum of 3 days per week, 2.5 hours each day at the same time of day where you are with the same children each day. Some people postpone taking CCE 160 Connecting to Children until they get a job where that regularity is assured.

You have to take the modules in order, D1, D2, D3 and D4. You can take them two at a time. Many people choose that way, since the class times are sequenced back to back. The discussions work best when participants are in the same place, with the same investigation history, so we insist on the numerical order. Because so much is involved in the depth of the changes in habits of being, we do not let people take more than 2 modules at once..

Q: What jobs can I get with the AAS Degree from North?

Although there are no degree requirements for those who care and educate young children, most employers are constantly searching for people with the AAS degree. It is in high demand. Head Start requires the AAS degree now for all their lead teachers. Most of our graduates move to higher paying positions, earning \$15 to \$18 per hour, with benefits.

We have a job board outside of room IB 2304A that posts employment possibilities. You can also find the latest job announcements on line <http://teachingyoungchildren.com>

Web Site

On line you can find resources and links that may be valuable. You can also find the earliest posting of upcoming classes. As soon as a new quarter is planned, it is posted at ecenorth.com.

Contacts:

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"This program represents what I am most proud of in America."

Overview of the Courses Throughout the Year

Fall Quarter	Winter Quarter	Spring Quarter	Summer Quarter
----- required courses -----			
		CCE 102 Issues and Trends	
CCE 113 Human Exceptionalities			
CCE 125 Program Planning			
CCE 135 Foundations of Early Learning			
CCE 160 Connecting to Children	CCE 160 Connecting to Children	CCE 160 Connecting to Children	CCE 160 Connecting to Children
	CCE 166 Cultivating Conversations		
CCE 159 Behavior Management			
CCE 232 Parent Involvement			
		CCE 234 Staff Relationships	
	CCE 292 Classroom Research	CCE 292 Classroom Research	
----- elective courses -----			
	CCE 101 Human Development		
	CCE 136 Signing with Young Children		
	CCE 145 Music and Creative Expression		
CCE 165 Understanding Literacy			
	CCE 175 Mathematics and Design		
		CCE 185 Physical Education in ECE	
	CCE 195 Art for Young Children		
CCE 240 Multicultural Dialogs in ECE			
		CCE 285 The Project Approach	

This schedule is not guaranteed.