Entering the World of Early Childhood Development

Working in the field of early childhood development is exciting and rewarding, but it is also challenging. The work that we do has an impact on the lives of young children, their families, and their community. It is likely that as a student enrolled in CE100, you are here because you are interested in seeking a rewarding career in the field of child development. The field of child development offers an amazing span of career options that can provide extremely satisfying work to individuals passionate about working with young children. This course is designed to give you the foundation needed to be a successful learner as well as a successful child development professional.

Most students ask what career options are available to them with a degree in child development, and there are many. As you work your way through your degree, you are encouraged to spend time with each of the different age groups and to talk to individuals that hold different jobs in the field. You may also find it beneficial to seek a job related to your career interest. Some employees will hire individuals knowing that they are taking college courses. These experiences and interactions, although only suggestions, can assist you as you work through the classes and will allow you to make meaningful connections to the content of the courses in our degree program.

There are many career opportunities and different types of settings in which an early childhood professional may choose to work. Each opportunity is diverse as to the services they provide and the positions that are available. They also differ according to specific qualifications for positions, work schedule, salary and benefits, and how the program is regulated. What they all have in common is that they have a goal of providing for children’s well-being.

Early childhood programs occur in a variety of settings, schools, homes, apartment buildings, centers, business, and houses of worship and there are more professional opportunities related to working with children and families than ever before. Some of these opportunities include working directly with children from birth to age 8 and their families as a teacher or a teacher assistant, taking on administrative roles in programs that support children and families, working at the local, state, national, or international level on behalf of children and families, and even working as a college instructor in higher education.

Depending on the chosen career choice and their geographic location, child development professionals will have different roles, responsibilities, and standards to follow. The information that you will learn this term will assist you in identifying the training, experience, and knowledge needed to be successful.
This term you will be learning about the many career choices that involve working with young children, ideas for electives based on that career choice, and tips for success! In addition, this course includes many academic strategies which will assist you in preparing for success in the Kaplan classroom environment.

Topics addressed include roles, responsibilities, and various career opportunities within the field, professional standards, personal management tools, strategies, and resources available to you at Kaplan University. This term, we will explore center-based, home-based and community-based careers, as well as careers in public/private schools, professional organizations, and more. You also will meet real-life practitioners that work in the field.