Professional Roles and Responsibilities

Professional Roles

You’ve learned a great deal about the early childhood profession and had the opportunity to explore some of the potential career options and childhood programs in the field. You know that early childhood educators may work in center-based child care centers or preschool programs. They may work in private, non-profit or faith-based child development centers. They may have their own individually or corporately owned franchise childcare centers or participate in cooperative child care centers.

Early childhood professionals can work with infants and toddlers, preschoolers, kindergartners or in grades 1-3. They may be head teachers, lead teachers or teacher assistants. They may run their own home-based care centers or become nannies or au pairs. Charter schools, special or residential facilities may also be career options. There are also subsidized programs such as Head Start or Early Head Start where early childhood professionals may be found.

In short, there are many rewarding professional roles available for early childhood professionals.

Responsibilities

Responsibilities of early childhood professionals can vary just as much as the professional roles do. Some of the most common responsibilities that are required of early childhood professionals include the care, feeding and changing of infants and toddlers and of course, providing stimulating and interactive early experiences to facilitate their cognitive, language, social, emotional and physical growth and development. But, we also know that early childhood professionals today do a lot more than basic care and feeding of children! Some of the other responsibilities include;

- Organize and arrange materials, furniture and classroom equipment
- Teach children academic readiness skills, personal hygiene and social skills
- Supervise children and activities; reinforce positive behavior and procedures for maintaining order
- Introduce and reinforce early language skills
- Teach children through physical, mental and social activities, games, crafts, music, storytelling and field trips
- Observe and evaluate behavior and development; communicate concerns with parents and supervisors
- Arranged safe and stimulating classroom environments that encourage social development, fine and gross motor skills and cognitive growth
- Serve as advocates for children and their families, educate parents and the community on early childhood issues
- Individualize classroom activities to support second language learners and special needs individuals
- Make use of technology for maintaining classroom records, reports and interactive experiences with children
- Administer first aid and other health protocols as necessary
- Incorporate developmentally appropriate practices for addressing literacy, math and other content areas

And much more! What other responsibilities can you add to this list?