

T H E

# J O B

C E N T E R

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



Abigail Frankenberg, a 2009 graduate of New Knoxville High School and the Tech Prep Early Childhood Education program at Tri-Star Career Compact is working with children to develop their fine motor skills. She is majoring in Early Childhood Education at Rhodes State College which was recently awarded the state's highest "Step Up To Quality" award for excellence in early care and education.

Teachers play an important role in fostering the intellectual and social development of children during their formative years. The education that teachers impart plays a key role in determining the future prospects of their students.

Teachers act as facilitators or coaches, using classroom presentations or individual instruction to help students learn and apply concepts in subjects such as science, mathematics, or English. They plan, evaluate, and assign lessons; prepare, administer, and grade tests; listen to oral presentations; and maintain classroom discipline. Teachers observe and evaluate a student's performance and potential and increasingly are asked to use new assessment methods. For example, teachers may examine a portfolio of a student's artwork or writing in order to judge the student's overall progress. They then can provide additional assistance in areas in which a student needs help. Teachers also grade papers, prepare report cards, and meet with parents and school staff to discuss a student's academic progress or personal problems.

Many teachers use a "hands-on" approach that uses "props" or "manipulatives" to help children understand abstract concepts, solve problems, and develop critical thought processes. For example, they teach the concepts of numbers or of addition and subtraction by playing board games. As the children get older, teachers use more sophisticated materials, such as science apparatus, cameras, or computers. They also encourage collaboration in solving problems by having students work in groups to

discuss and solve problems together. To be prepared for success later in life, students must be able to interact with others, adapt to new technology, and think through problems logically.

Preschool, kindergarten, and elementary school teachers play a vital role in the development of children. What children learn and experience during their early years can shape their views of themselves and the world and can affect their later success or failure in school, work, and their personal lives. Preschool, kindergarten, and elementary school teachers introduce children to mathematics, language, science, and social studies. They use games, music, artwork, films, books, computers, and other tools to teach basic skills.

Preschool children learn mainly through play and interactive activities. Preschool teachers use storytelling, rhyming games, and acting games to further language and vocabulary development. They have children work together to improve social skills and introduce scientific and mathematical concepts through activities like balancing and counting blocks when building a bridge or mixing colors when painting. Play and hands-on teaching also are used by kindergarten teachers, but academics begin to take priority in kindergarten classrooms. Letter recognition, phonics, numbers, and awareness of nature and science, introduced at the preschool level, are taught primarily in kindergarten.

### SKILLS REQUIRED

In addition to being knowledgeable about the subjects they teach, teachers must have the ability to communicate, inspire trust and confidence, and motivate students, as well as understand the students' educational and emotional needs. Teachers must be able to recognize and respond to individual and cultural differences in students and employ different teaching methods that will result in higher student achievement. They should be organized, dependable, patient, and creative.

### WHERE/HOW TO GET TRAINING AND JOBS

Rhodes State College Early Childhood Education (ECE) program prepares students for professional career placement in child care centers, Head Start programs, public preschools, early childhood specialist/teacher, preschool directors, public school preschools, intergenerational programs, licensing agency, Kindergarten/primary assistant, school-age program coordinators, hospitals, group homes, children's homes and other programs concerned with the well-being, development and education of the infant, toddler, preschooler and the school-age child.

The program focuses on the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of children ages birth through

eight years and the planning of activities and programs that are developmentally appropriate and are sensitive to the special needs and diversity of today's children and families. Teacher training emphasizes developmentally appropriate curriculum design and instructional skill, based on guidelines set by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The program includes extensive fieldwork observations and a 210-hour student teaching practicum. The Early Childhood Education is accredited by the State of Ohio Department of Education.



For more information on federal financial aid programs, call (800) 4FE-DAID

### ARTICULATION (2+2/3)

The associate degree program from Rhodes State College provides a solid foundation for further college

education and degrees. The Department Chair or advisor can provide specific information on this opportunity.

### RESOURCES - HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

**National Association for the Education of Young Children**  
 1509 16th St. NW.  
 Washington, DC 20036  
 Internet: <http://www.naeyc.org>

**Susan Hord, Chair ECE Rhodes State College**  
 419-995-8823

### YOU HAVE THE POWER



For more information about Newspaper-In-Education (NIE), call 419-993-2114, e-mail [acoburngriffis@limanews.com](mailto:acoburngriffis@limanews.com) or log on to [www.limanews.com/NIE](http://www.limanews.com/NIE).

### THIS EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP SPONSORED BY



For admissions information, visit [www.RhodesState.edu](http://www.RhodesState.edu)



### JOBS IN THIS FIELD

Place of work	Average salary*
Child Day Care Services	\$22,980
Elementary and Secondary Schools	\$36,080
Individual and Family Services	\$27,700
Civic and Social Organizations	\$24,840
Religious Organizations	\$27,650

\*Salaries may vary depending on region and experience.  
 Sources: Chronicle Guidance Publications and Occupational Outlook Handbook.