



# You can be a Lead Early Childhood Educator, And Arizona Families Need You!

## What you need to become a Lead Early Childhood Educator in a Licensed Center-Based Setting

Minimum requirements are based on [Department of Health Services Division of Child Care Licensing regulations](#).

- Minimum age of 18 years or older and:
  - Six months of child care experience and:
    - A high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma, or
    - At least 12 credit hours from an accredited college or university, including at least six credit hours in early childhood, child development, or a closely-related field.
  - Associate's or bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in early childhood, child development, or a closely-related field, or
  - One of the following recognized credentials:
    - [National Administrator Credential \(N.A.C.\)](#).
    - [Certified Childcare Professional \(C.C.P.\)](#).
    - [Child Development Associate \(C.D.A.\)](#).
  - State issued fingerprint clearance card and criminal background check.

There are various types of center-based childcare and education settings available for employment.

Privately owned	Faith based
District-based	Campus child care
Not-for-profit	Corporate child care
Head Start/ Early Head Start	Employee child care

**Employment requirements may vary from setting to setting.**

## What you can expect when you become a Lead Early Childhood Educator

- Work an average of 35 to 40-hours per week as the primary care and education provider in a classroom setting.
- Plan and implement developmentally appropriate curriculum with infants, toddlers, and/or preschool age children.
- Demonstrate professionalism in interactions with children, families, colleagues, and community partners.
- Provide guidance and support to your classroom team members - you are the role model!
- Develop trusting and collaborative partnerships with family members while maintaining confidentiality.
- Maintain current and timely documentation of children's developmental progress.
- Engage in continuous, ongoing training and professional development.
- Collaborate with coaches, consultants, service providers, and other support-roles present within the program.
- Full-time salary and benefits are based on a variety of factors that may include experience, education level, location, and setting type.

To search for Early Childhood openings, use the links below:

- [Arizona Education Employment Board: Early Childhood \(District and Head Start\)](#).
- [AZ Toolkit Job Bank](#) - Subscription required.

**Don't forget to search more traditional job search engines as well!**

