



Early Childhood Education

Youth Apprenticeship

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Early childhood youth apprentices assist teachers in a variety of settings. Focus is placed on maintaining a safe and healthy environment, building relationships with parents and staff, and implementing learning activities.

Length of Apprenticeship: One or two years

OCCUPATIONAL COMPETENCIES

Youth apprentices work with a job site mentor to demonstrate the following competencies.

Year 1: Youth apprentices must complete a **total of 15** competencies. **Fourteen** must be from the list below. If necessary, employers can substitute **1** competency with another occupationally appropriate skill. That skill should be added to the competency list for assessment.

Year 2: Youth apprentices must complete a **total of 16** competencies. **Fourteen** must be from the list below. If necessary, employers can substitute **1** competency with another occupationally appropriate skill. Those skills should be added to the competency list for assessment.

Note: In most settings, youth apprentices must meet the requirements set forth by the WI Department of Children and Families (DCF) for Early Childhood Program Aide (at least 16 years of age) or Early Childhood Assistant Teacher (at least 17 years of age with appropriate training). The DCF childcare regulation requirements are outline in more detail their website: [Wisconsin Child Care Regulation](#).

YEAR 1 Competencies	YEAR 2 Competencies
1. Obtain training or certification requirements required for employment	1. Maintain training or certification requirements for required for employment
2. Assess environment for safety hazards	2. Care for minor injuries and illnesses
3. Maintain a clean and sanitary environment	3. Conduct informal observations
4. Adhere to emergency procedures	4. Perform food preparation
5. Follow employer child tracking procedures	5. Implement developmentally appropriate positive guidance strategies
6. Serve meals	6. Teach social and emotional skills
7. Foster social interaction during meals	7. Support culturally responsive environments, activities, and materials
8. Instruct children on personal hygiene	8. Implement modifications to routines, environments, and equipment to ensure inclusivity
9. Model personal hygiene	9. Integrate learning opportunities into caregiving routines
10. Follow toileting and diapering procedures	10. Evaluate the lesson plan
11. Incorporate teacher-directed activities for small and large groups	11. Model interpersonal skills with children and families
12. Implement outdoor learning activities	
13. Establish positive relationships with children and families	
14. Comply with licensing regulations	

15. Model professionalism as an Early Childhood Educator	12. Identify community resources available to families 13. Engage in reflective practice 14. Advocate for the early childhood profession 15. Uphold ethical standards for early childhood educators 16. Maintain knowledge of best practices and recent developments
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REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP BRIDGING OPPORTUNITIES

The following Registered Apprenticeship is available in this area:

- Early Childhood Educator

POST-SECONDARY PATHWAY OPPORTUNITIES

There are several post-secondary pathway opportunities in this area. The following is a partial list.

- Early Childhood Education
- Foundations of Teacher Education