

at a glance



# Early Childhood Education

**Degree:** Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.)  
**Entry time:** Fall  
**Length:** 2 years (5 semesters)

## Program Description

Good with kids? Our program focuses on the care and education of young children. Gain knowledge about child development, nutrition, safety, and appropriate childhood curriculum and environments. Learn about the different career options in the field. Work hands on in area early childhood programs, including preschool, Head Start, and childcare centers to build your resume.

## Degree Definition

Certificates, diplomas, and degrees differ in the time it takes to earn each as well as the credits required in order to graduate. Each of these academic achievements is suitable for certain specific fields or career goals. More education typically means greater job opportunities.

Diploma and certificate programs taken alone are similar to associate's degree programs. However, they take less time because general education courses are not required. A degree program differs from certificates and diploma programs in that it often requires the student to take general education courses to support a more rounded education.

## Career Opportunities

An A.A.S degree prepares you for entry-level employment such as:

- Childcare/school-age director, lead or teacher
- Early Head Start teacher
- Head Start assistant teacher
- Assistant teacher/paraprofessional
- Childcare operator

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## Short-term Training Options

- Early Childhood Paraeducator Certificate  
1 year (2 semesters)
- Early Childhood Administration Certificate  
(13 Credits)
- Early Childhood Education Diploma  
1 year (3 semesters)

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## Scholarships

We award more scholarships than any other community college in Iowa. Complete **one application** to be eligible. To apply visit: [www.kirkwood.edu/scholarships](http://www.kirkwood.edu/scholarships).

## Questions?

Contact: [social.sciences@kirkwood.edu](mailto:social.sciences@kirkwood.edu)  
or 319-398-4911

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