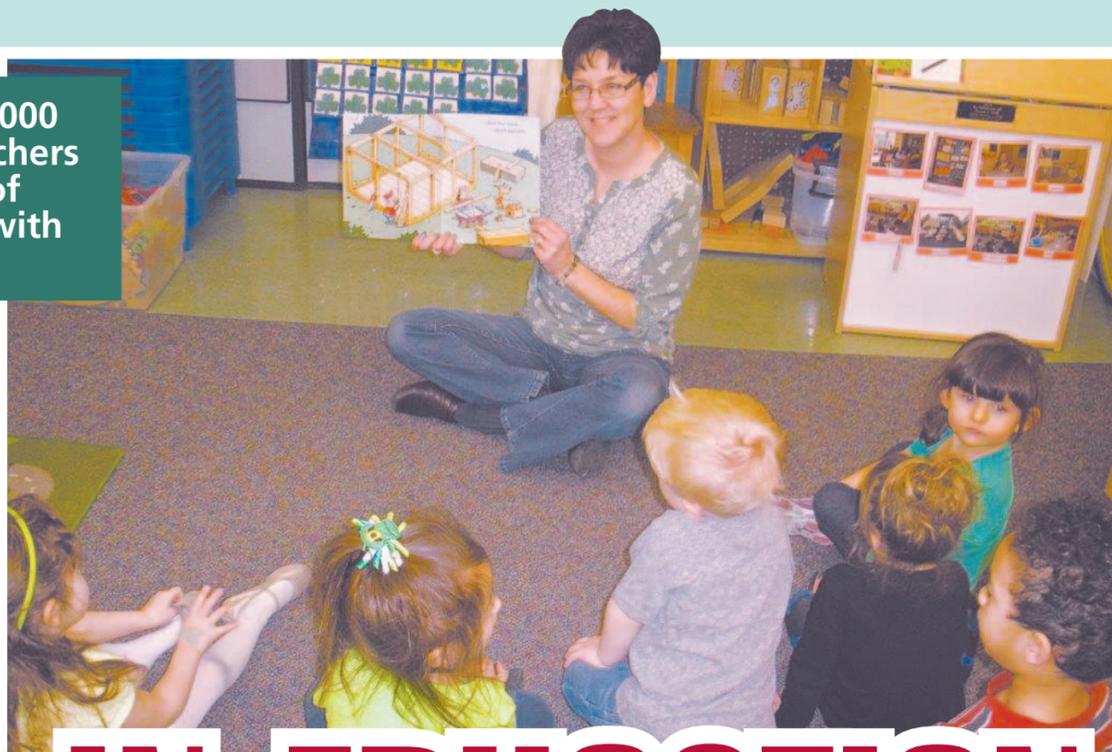


In 2014 there were approximately 441,000 individuals employed as preschool teachers nationwide with a projected increase of 7%, while in Ohio, there were 19,120 with a projected increase of 18%.

For the last few weeks, we focused on careers in Education. Education is an important part of life. The amount and type of education that individuals receive is a major influence on both the types of jobs they are able to hold and their earnings. Life-long learning is important in acquiring new knowledge and upgrading one's skills, particularly in this age of rapid technological and economic changes. The educational services industry includes a variety of institutions that offer academic education, career and technical instruction, and other education and training to millions of students each year.



# CAREERS IN EDUCATION

## The type of work

- Establish and enforce rules for behavior and procedures for maintaining order.
- Organize and lead activities designed to promote physical, mental, and social development, such as games, arts and crafts, music, storytelling, and field trips.
- Teach basic skills, such as color, shape, number and letter recognition, personal hygiene, and social skills.
- Observe and evaluate children's performance, behavior, social development, and physical health.
- Read books to entire classes or to small groups.
- Attend to children's basic needs by feeding them, dressing them, and changing their diapers.
- Provide a variety of materials and resources for children to explore, manipulate, and use, both in learning activities and in imaginative play.
- Assimilate arriving children to the school environment by greeting them, helping them remove outerwear, and selecting activities of interest to them.
- Teach proper eating habits and personal hygiene.
- Prepare materials and classrooms for class activities.

## More Facts ?

**Licenses, Certifications, and Registrations:** Some states require preschool teachers to obtain the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential offered by the Council for Professional Recognition. Obtaining the CDA credential requires coursework, experience in the field, a written exam, and observation of the candidate working with children. The CDA credential is valid for three years and requires renewal.

Some states recognize the Certified Child-care Professional (CCP) designation offered by the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation. Some of the requirements needed to obtain the CCP include that the candidate must be 18 years old, have a high school diploma, have experience in the field, take courses in early childhood education, and pass an exam. The CCP accreditation requires renewal every two years through the CCP maintenance process.

In public schools, preschool teachers must be licensed to teach early childhood education, which covers preschool through third grade. Requirements vary by state, but they generally require a bachelor's degree and passing an exam to demonstrate competency. Most states require teachers to complete continuing education credits to maintain their license.



## PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

**Amy-Jo West**  
Preschool Teacher  
Lorain County Community College  
Children's Learning Center  
1005 N. Abbe Road Elyria, Ohio

**Instruct preschool-aged children in activities designed to promote social, physical, and intellectual growth needed for primary school in preschool, day care center, or other child development facility.**

## EARNINGS POTENTIAL

### Annual Salary for 2014

Location	Low	Median	High
United States .....	\$18,680 .....	\$28,1200 .....	\$50,880
Ohio .....	\$17,980 .....	\$23,420 .....	\$38,330
Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor, OH PMSA .....	\$19,590 .....	\$25,4600 .....	\$54,180

O\*Net Online, <http://online.onetcenter.org>

## THE FUTURE OUTLOOK

Early childhood education is important for a child's short- and long-term intellectual and social development. More preschool teachers should be needed as a result of the increasing demand for early childhood education. In addition, some parents are starting to enroll children as young as infants in preschool because of the educational benefit.

## Pathways to success:

In childcare centers, preschool teachers generally are required to have a least a high school diploma and a certification in early childhood education. However, employers may prefer to hire workers with at least some postsecondary education in early childhood education.

Preschool teachers in Head Start programs are required to have at least an associate's degree. However, at least 50 percent of all preschool teachers in Head Start programs nationwide must have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field. Those with a degree in a related field must have experience teaching preschool-age children.

In public schools, preschool teachers are generally required to have at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field. Bachelor's degree programs teach students about children's development, strategies to teach young children, and how to observe and document children's progress.



## What Employers look for in individuals:

- Customer and Personal Service - principles and processes for providing customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction.
- Education and Training - principles and methods for curriculum and training design, teaching and instruction for individuals and groups, and the measurement of training effects.
- English Language - structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar.
- Psychology - human behavior and performance; individual differences in ability, personality, and interests; learning and motivation; psychological research methods; and the assessment and treatment of behavioral and affective disorders.
- Public Safety and Security - relevant equipment, policies, procedures, and strategies to promote effective local, state, or national security operations for the protection of people, data, property, and institutions.

**Q. How did you become interested in your particular field?**

**A.** My mother Sandi Clark, who worked at Meister Road Elementary School for over thirty years, became my inspiration to foster the love of education to children at a young age.

**Q. How did you get to where you are today? What path did your employment journey take?**

**A.** I began my career path in travel and tourism as a travel agent and room reservationist for area hotels. After working in this field for six years, I felt a change was needed. I went back to school and attended Lorain County Community College where I began my studies in the Early Childhood Education program. I have been employed at the Children's Learning Center since 1999, teaching my preschool class of children ages three and four.

**Q. What skills or certifications do you think are needed to be successful in this field?**

**A.** Training in early childhood with a minimum completion of a CDA with the goal of completing an Associate or Bachelor's degree in early childhood education. Jobs in public school programs will require the more advanced degrees.

**Q. What changes have you seen over the last few years?**

**A.** When I began teaching preschool in 1996, there were no content standards to align with our curriculum for children ages 3 to 5. During that time period, the knowledge that I had learned through my early childhood education classes at LCCC supported my journey to write lesson plans for my classroom. Today, we have content standards that align with all aspects of our preschool curriculum (Social Emotional Development, Approaches Toward Learning, Cognition and General Knowledge, Language and Literacy Development and Physical Well-Being/Motor Development). These standards are valuable tools in the classroom to help prepare children for kindergarten.

**Q. What is the best part of your job?**

**A.** My greatest feeling as I teach young children is to see the twinkle in their eyes just at the right "Ah-Ha" moment as they accomplished a task they have been working on. During my music and movement lesson, one child continually tried to follow a two-step direction with her rhythm sticks. She has been working on this since January and just a few weeks ago she was able to accomplish this task. I can still see her face light up with a huge grin when she said, "I did it!" That is why I love my job!

**Q. Do you have any words of advice for someone considering a career in your field?**

**A.** If your heart is filled with the promise to make a difference in the lives of children, by all means follow that feeling, as the rewards of a gentle smile and a loving hug will greet you every day you step into a preschool classroom!

## Sponsors



## Elyria City School District



Ensuring that each child reaches his or her full potential

Sources: Occupational Information Network, O\*Net Online, <http://online.onetcenter.org>.\*\* U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook, <http://stats.bls.gov/ocoeHow.com>