Early Childhood Development and Care

Why Early Childhood Development and Care?
Current research shows that development in the early years is extremely vital. As a professional who works in an early childhood setting, you’ll have opportunities to guide young learners using positive, appropriate methods. In addition to meaningful courses on campus, you will be involved with 235 hours of “hands-on” day-to-day activities in diverse early learning field environments. Career opportunities include:

- Center director
- Head teacher (non-public settings)
- Teacher assistant
- Family child care provider
- Early childhood business owner
- Nanny or au pair
- Early intervention specialist
- Recreation leadership
- Home visitor
- Child care resource and referral specialist
- Curriculum consultant

Why Early Childhood Development and Care at SUNY Orange?
That’s easy! The Education Department faculty is highly qualified and cares about you as a teacher-in-training. Our curriculum blends excellent instruction with “hands-on” practical experience through field work in public schools and early learning centers. Our graduates are eagerly hired by local agencies. Our Jointly Registered Teacher Education Program (JRTEP) transfer students typically achieve a 100% pass rate on the New York State Liberal Arts and Sciences Test for Certification exams. The competitively low tuition at SUNY Orange and the high level of preparation combine to truly give you the best for less. Start your teaching career here: change the world one child at a time.

I’ve always dreamed of pursuing a career involving children, and the A.A.S. degree at SUNY Orange allowed me to achieve that vision. The intensive course requirements not only taught me the necessary skills in order to teach young children, but also encouraged my creativity and provided me with the resources to immediately begin teaching upon graduation.”

Gayle Diana

Top 5 Reasons You Should Study Early Childhood Development and Care at SUNY Orange

- Education department faculty experience totals more than 65 years. We know and have lived what we’re teaching.
- Meaningful, appropriate and quality instruction is paired with up to 235 hours of practical “hands-on” field work.
- Course assessments are not just exams. You’ll also design items relevant to teaching (lesson plans/learning games).
- On-campus department support and resources (900-plus volumes in the Education Department Curriculum Resource area) add to your professional growth.
- Employment and/or transfer success is high. Local agencies want our graduates.

At SUNY Orange, we are passionate about teaching and we are committed to providing a friendly and supportive environment for you. If you are equally passionate about your future, you may want to investigate all that SUNY Orange has to offer.

“If you have the dream, we have the way.”
SUNY Orange offers a selection of programs for students pursuing varied careers in education. Emphasis is placed on solid foundational knowledge in liberal arts as well as educational concept, theory and application. In several courses, local field experiences enhance college classroom learning.

The programs in the Education Department are:
- Early Childhood Development and Care—A.A.S. Degree
- Early Childhood Development and Care—Certificate
- Jointly Registered Teacher Education Program—A.A. and A.S. degrees; (Transfer program with SUNY New Paltz; courses may transfer to other SUNY colleges—check with transfer school)
- Teaching Assistant Certificate
- Liberal Arts and Sciences—Foundations of Education—A.A. and A.S. degrees; (Transfer opportunities to schools other than SUNY New Paltz)

If you wish to teach in preschools or child care centers, or own a business in early childhood education, and NOT transfer to a four-year school, review the A.A.S. degree and/or the certificate program in Early Childhood Development and Care.

If you want to pursue a career teaching in a public school, and plan to transfer to SUNY New Paltz (or another SUNY school—check with transfer school), refer to the JRTEP options, which lead to a seamless, priority transfer as a junior to New Paltz when all applicable requirements are successfully met at SUNY Orange.

If you choose a career in public school teaching and plan to transfer to a four-year school other than SUNY New Paltz, consult the College’s general Liberal Arts and Sciences degrees in which you can specify your academic interest as Foundations of Education. For the three or four electives in those course sequences, you can choose some of the education courses.

If you are interested in a teaching assistant position in a public or non-public setting, you may consider the Teaching Assistant certificate.

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<th>Education Certificate and Liberal Arts Options</th>
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<td><strong>Early Childhood Development and Care Certificate</strong></td>
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| Current research shows that development in the early years is extremely vital. Becoming a professional who works in an early childhood setting, you’ll have opportunities to guide young learners using positive, appropriate methods. In addition to meaningful courses on campus, you will be involved with up to 60 hours of “hands-on” day-to-day activities in diverse, early-learning field environments. Career opportunities include:
| Entry-level or aide positions in:
- Child care centers
- Preschools
- Nursery schools
| All of the Early Childhood Development and Care Certificate courses can be applied to the Early Childhood Development and Care A.A.S. degree. |

| **Teaching Assistant Certificate** |
| After completing this program, you’ll be prepared to provide educational and behavioral assistance in New York State classrooms ranging from preschool through high school. College courses may include up to 50 hours of observation/participation in local schools, as well as basic SUNY general education topics. The program meets the requirements for permanent New York State Education Department Teaching Assistant Certification. Additionally, all courses apply to an associate’s degree and the Jointly Registered Teacher Education Program. Career opportunities include entry-level teaching assistant or paraprofessional openings in:
| Birth to second grade
| First to sixth grade
| Seventh to 12th grade |

| **Liberal Arts (Foundations of Education) Degree Program** |
| The Associate in Arts and the Associate in Science degrees in Liberal Arts prepare students to obtain a bachelor’s degree at a four-year college or university. Students interested in obtaining a New York State Teaching Certificate can begin at SUNY Orange by entering an A.A. or A.S. Liberal Arts program. (Students planning to transfer to SUNY New Paltz or another SUNY school should review both this generic A.A./A.S. degree AND the Jointly Registered Teacher Education Program. The JRTEP is a specific, highly competitive partnership with New Paltz, requiring a high grade point average. Other SUNY schools may accept SUNY Orange courses.) |
| This program allows students to select courses related to their education career. |