

Looking to Become an Early Childhood Educator?

Are you at least 18 years old? Do you have a high school diploma or GED?

If you answered yes, there are two ways you can become an early childhood educator:

1. Start a new childcare business in your own home

This is an option that works best for many families in Vermont. In-home child care programs usually offer a mixed age group with a collection of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, so it's more like a family than a classroom. This diversity can be a great learning environment for kids of all ages.

How to get started:

- Complete an [application](#) at the Child Development Division.
- More information can be found in the [regulations for licensed and registered homes](#).



2. Work in an Early Education Center

Parents often choose a child care center for its social, learning environment. It's like an early introduction to the classroom, in which qualified early educators care for kids who are grouped by age, from very young infants all the way to school-age children.



How to get started:

- Check out local job openings.
 - Update your resume and references.
 - Visit the [Child Development Division's website](#).
 - Visit the [Vermont Northern Lights career ladder](#) to see what positions you might be qualified for.
 - Consider becoming a substitute at a center.
 - More information can be found in the Vermont [regulations for center-based programs](#).
 - Paid internship opportunities - Internship placements may be available at local programs. Inquire with program directors.
- On-the-job training - The field strives to place students in paid job positions and substitute opportunities at regional programs.

Help with startup costs

Owning and operating an early education program in your home, or as a center, is full of complexities, but the links below will help you find many resources.

- [Vermont Small Business Development Center](#)
- [Let's Grow Kids/Make Way for Kids Grants](#)
- [Vermont Community Loan Fund](#)
- [First Children's Finance](#)

Connecting with experienced professionals

Mentoring/coaching encourages reflective practice for both mentors and new educators. The main purpose of mentoring/coaching in education is to support teachers and leaders to share knowledge and skills and to offer support where needed.

- [Pre-apprenticeship](#) and [apprenticeship](#) through Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children (VTAEYC)
- Mentoring opportunities - Bennington County Starting Points, Contacts: [Rebecca Bishop](#) & [Alyson Grzyb](#)
- Coaching and technical assistance from [Let's Grow Kids](#)



Help navigating educational resources

- [Darcy Oakes](#) of the Community College of Vermont (CCV) can help you navigate the best plan for your education.
- For help navigating requirements, contact the Resource Advisor at Northern Lights CCV, [Amelia Struthers](#).
- [CCV Pathways in Education](#)
- [CCV Admissions Applications](#)
- [Credit for What You Know](#)

Financial assistance for education

There are currently many financial assistance options for those considering early childhood education, including free and low-cost options.

- [Vermont Student Assistance Corporation \(VSAC\)](#)
- Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children (VTAEYC) has information on [scholarships, grants, and bonuses](#).
- [Community College of Vermont \(CCV\) scholarships](#)