

Can Men be Early Childhood Educators?

YES!



Research shows that school readiness and academic achievement are directly linked to the involvement of father figures with young children. —Scott Neff, Early Childhood Teacher

Idaho Wages Preschool Teacher

Hourly Wage: \$6.32 to \$13.44

Median wage: \$9.44

(Idaho Occupation & Wage Report, 2006)

Developmental Specialist K-3 Teacher

Hourly Wage: \$16.50 to \$29.63

(Source: Idaho DHR Pay Grade K, 2008)

To work as a Developmental Specialist K-3 Teacher, one must:

- Complete a Blended Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education Certificate (Minimum Qualifications)
- Have specialized knowledge and skills for working with young children of all abilities
- have good communication skills; and
- be able to work as part of a team.

To work as a Preschool Teacher, one must:

- Have a high school diploma or GED;
- Meet state licensing requirements; and
- have good communication skills; and
- be able to work as part of a team.

A Technical Certificate and an Associate of Applied Science degrees are offered at the College of Southern Idaho for Early Childhood Education.

Idaho Employment

660 jobs— medium occupation

42.7% —annual growth

36 jobs— large annual openings

Nationally, men make up 2.7% of the labor force.

Source: US Dept of Labor (2007)

Most kindergarten teachers work in public and private schools. More than half of all preschool teachers work in child day care services.

Job Outlook

Many states are considering making preschool required for four-year-olds. They're also considering making kindergarten be all day long instead of one-half day. If states make these changes, the number of jobs for preschool and kindergarten teachers will increase dramatically. This is because the number of children in classes will grow so much. Even if these laws do not pass, the growth for teachers will still be faster than average.

Regardless of Gender Early Childhood Teachers Must:

- Organize activities that develop children's physical, emotional, mental, and social growth.
- Maintain contact with parents or guardians through informal meetings or conferences.
- Keep records of each child's progress. Make suggestions to parents for activities to do at home.
- Provide learning opportunities through basic care activities.
- Encourage language development through reading, story telling, and acting games.
- Improve social skills through discussions and cooperative activities.
- Introduce science and math concepts through building and counting activities.
- Encourage creative talents through art, dance, and music activities.
- Plan and develop each day's activities. Balance group and individual play, and active and quiet time
- Serve nutritious meals and snacks. Teach good eating and personal cleanliness habits.
- Observe children to identify signs of illness or emotional or developmental problems.
- Confer with parents and supervisors about problems.

**College of Southern Idaho
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Early Childhood Education Program
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