

Early Childhood Educator Information Package



Golden Child



Daycare



sharing everyday adventures



WorkBC



What is an ECE?

ECE stands for Early Childhood Educator

Early Childhood Educators are an essential part of a child's early years, helping to prepare them to navigate the world and to enter into formal education. They provide high quality childcare and education in a variety of settings for children from birth to age 12.

Individuals who choose to work as Early Childhood Educators should:

- Be caring and have the desire to make a difference in the lives of children
- Be open to a variety of guiding strategies
- Have strong communication skills with children and parents of various cultural backgrounds

How do I Become an ECE?

To become a qualified Early Childhood Educator (ECE) you are required to take courses from an approved training institution.

In Golden, the College of the Rockies (COTR) is one of these approved institutions.

College of the Rockies ECE Program

<https://cotr.bc.ca/programs/early-childhood-education/>



- One-year certificate program to become a qualified ECE
- Starts in September each year
- Can be done full or part-time
- Program is online with practicum in local community
- Approximately \$3,800 in fees (excluding textbooks) to complete the ECE certificate program

Local Golden Cohort at COTR in 2026

1. Online delivery with the Golden Campus:

- Full-time 1 year
- Online learning
- Access to a shared classroom and a computer
- Technical support onsite
- Local practicum
- Application before May 15th
- Start September
- Local orientation week and activities
- Peer support
- Facebook ECE group

2. Other flexible option

- Part-time



**This
September!**

COTR ECE Certification Courses

1. Creating curriculum with young children
2. Inclusive Interpersonal Communications
3. Developing Positive Relationships with Young Children
4. Health, Safety and Nutrition
5. Practicum
6. Creating Curriculum
7. Lifespan Development
8. Program Development
9. Guiding Behaviours with Young Children
10. Families
11. Introduction of Professional Practice
12. Studies in Diversity

ECE Types of Certification

- 1. ECE One Year Certificate:** Allows you to work as a fully certified ECE while completing your 500 hours under the supervision of a Canadian certified ECE. Can only be renewed once and then you apply for a 5-year certificate.
- 2. ECE Assistant Certificate:** ECE Assistants work alongside ECEs and/or Infant Toddler Educators in licensed childcare programs for children birth to 5 years of age. A great option for those who are working part-time while studying! ECE Assistants are not eligible for the wage top-ups that full ECEs can access.
- 3. Continuing Education:**
 - Obtain an ECE diploma with one or both Infant & Toddler and Special Needs
 - Bachelors of Child and Youth Care, OR Social Work
 - Complete a diploma in Child, Youth and Family Studies

Prerequisites

- High School Diploma
- 65% grade 12 level English (or equivalent via a College of the Rockies Academic English Assessment)
- Admission Package
 - Completion of immunization form
 - Criminal Record Check

Note: The College offers academic upgrading to obtain High School credits if you need to upgrade your English 12 to meet the 65% minimum or to finish your High School diploma .

For any questions, contact Andrea at the College of the Rockies, Golden Campus at 250-344-5901 or email AEitle@cotr.bc.ca.

Other Training Options

Other institutions offer online training towards and ECE certification.

One of these institutions is Pacific Rim Early Childhood Institute:

<https://www.earlychildhoodeducator.com/>

- Offers a monthly intake, year-round
- Can be done on a part-time or full-time basis
- Program is online with practicum in local community
- Approximately \$7,700 in fees (excluding textbooks) to complete the ECE certificate program



WorkBC

Training Supports

Work BC - Training Supports



If you are currently unemployed, under-employed or precariously employed, then WorkBC may be able to help.

To qualify for WorkBC Employment Services, you need to be:

- Not working; or
- Working less than 20 hours/week ; or
- Precariously employed - will be determined after conversation with Employment Counsellor

WorkBC can work with you to determine if skills training is necessary to help you achieve sustainable employment. If determined to be necessary, you may be eligible for financial supports to help cover tuition, text books, supplies, and living, childcare, and transportation costs.

Work BC - Training Supports



How to Apply:

Contact WorkBC Golden:

- by phone - 250-344-5413
- by email - clientservices@goldencommunityresources.ca
- by dropping by - #205 - 421 9th Ave N (Patlar Building - 2nd floor)

Complete an online application for Employment Services

Attend intake appointment with Employment Consultant for eligibility and suitability assessment

Proceed through process to apply for Occupational Skills Training

- This process can take at least up to 8 weeks, and sometimes more. Do not wait to apply until it's too late.

Other Training Supports

Other Training Supports



There are training supports you can access yourself, without going through WorkBC.

ECE Education Support Fund*

<https://www.ecebc.ca/ece-education-support-fund>

- You can access up to \$4,000 (\$500 per course – max of 8 courses)
- Seasonal intakes
- Apply for this funding after you have secured a spot in a recognized course
- You will receive the funding after successful completion of your course, so you will need to pay for the course yourself in the first instance

** Reliant on continued funding from BC Government, and is mentioned in latest economic plan*

Where Could I Work?

TYPES OF CHILD CARE

Group Child Care Setting: Community based facility or centre

- Under 3 years
- 2.5 years to school age
- School Age (before and after school care)
- Multi-age child care

In-Home Multi-age Child Care Setting: In child care provider's own home

- From birth to 12 years

Preschool Setting: Community based facility or centre

- 2.5 years old to school age

Where Could I Work?

SCHOOL DISTRICT – POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE ROLES WITHIN SD6

- Seamless Day program, before and after-school care and working alongside teachers throughout the day

COMMUNITY-BASED EARLY YEARS SUPPORT

- Strong Start
- Early Years Center
- Supported Child Development



What Can I Earn?

There are currently a number of wage subsidies for qualified ECEs which can increase your hourly wage by up to \$8/hour.

With these wage subsidies included, a qualified ECE within the Columbia Basin could earn between \$23 to \$30/hour; currently the average is \$27.

Special yearly incentive for specialized Infant Toddler and Special Needs: \$2,000 if one certification or \$3,000 if both.

Early Childhood Group Care Centres

There are 3 Early Childhood Group Care Centres in Golden. As employers, they each have access to more funding streams to support their employees with training.

Contact them for more information about funding, practicum and employment possibilities, or to visit their centre:

- Pamela Tetrault, owner and operator Golden Child Daycare
- 250-344-5585
- info@goldenchilddaycare.ca
- 818 9th St N



Early Childhood Group Care Centres

- Arunveer Kamboj, manager Mountain Child Early Learning + Care Centre
- 250-439-9324
- mountainchild.gcrs@gmail.com
- 1000 14th Ave S



- Nicole Altkuella, owner and operator Wildernest Childcare
- info@wildernestchildcare.com
- 1210 Horse Crk Rd S



Golden Child Daycare

- Multi-age care
- 0-36 months
- Birth to 12 years



Golden Child

Daycare

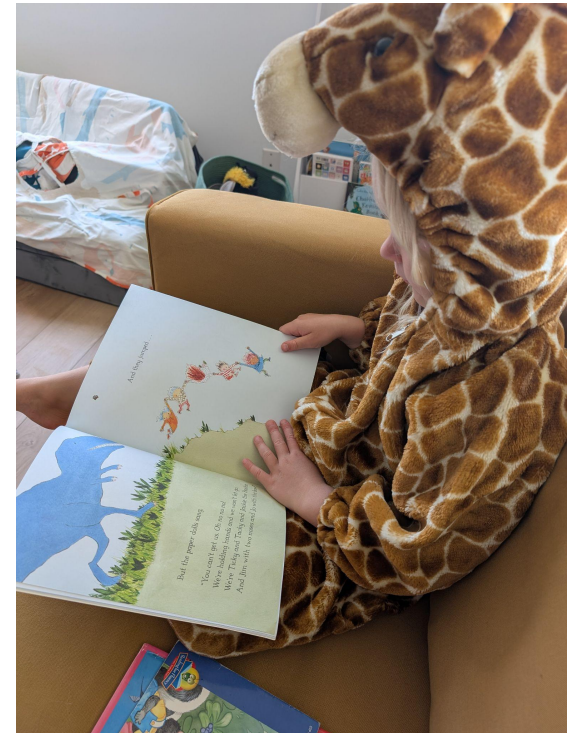
Mountain Child Early Learning + Care Centre

- 0-36 months
- 30 months to school age
- After school (APES) (K-3)



Wilderness Childcare

- 2.5-5 years
- Currently licensed for 8 children, with planned growth to 25 children
- Nature-based, play-led learning with a strong emphasis on outdoor time
- A small, supportive team



Wilderness
Childcare

Local Cohort Grads



This could be you!

Next steps

1. For more information on WorkBC services, please contact Jamie at 250-344-5413 or counsellor@goldencommunityresources.ca.
2. Please connect with the COTR to get an application package and any other questions in person at 1305 9 St S, or at 250-344-5901 or email golden@cotr.bc.ca.
3. For any questions, please contact any of the organizations listed in this presentation.

How to become an ECE - Recap Video

Watch this video that gives a summary of the process and supports in becoming an ECE:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hugvr4GCx2A>

