

## A.A.S. in Early Childhood Education

### Description of the Early Childhood Program:

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The program of Early Childhood Education at Hostos Community College is designed to prepare students with the background, knowledge, and skills for employment in schools, day care centers, and other agencies providing programs for infants and young children.

The course of study combines classroom instruction with workshops, seminars, and field experiences. Students have an opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge through first-hand experiences in the methods and materials of instruction and by observation and participation in early childhood programs. The program also prepares students to work in bilingual programs and provides them with the foundation for advanced work in other areas.

#### For more information, see link below

[http://www.hostos.cuny.edu/Hostos/media/Office-of-Academic-Affairs/Academic-Advisement/Early-Childhood-Education-AAS\\_1.pdf](http://www.hostos.cuny.edu/Hostos/media/Office-of-Academic-Affairs/Academic-Advisement/Early-Childhood-Education-AAS_1.pdf)

### Skills:

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**Communication skills.** Preschool teachers need good communication skills to tell parents and colleagues about students' progress. They need good writing and speaking skills to convey this information effectively. They must also be able to communicate well with small children.

**Creativity.** Preschool teachers must plan lessons that engage young students. In addition, they need to adapt their lessons to suit different learning styles.

**Interpersonal skills.** Preschool teachers must understand children's emotional needs and be able to

develop good relationships with parents, children, and colleagues.

**Organizational skills.** Teachers need to be organized to plan lessons and keep records of their students.

**Patience.** Working with children can be frustrating, and preschool teachers should be able to respond calmly to overwhelming and difficult situations.

**Physical stamina.** Working with children can be physically taxing, so preschool teachers should have a lot of energy.

### Sample Job Titles:

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Teacher Assistant, Group Leader, Child Care and Guidance Workers, Child Care Provider/Assistant, Substitute Paraprofessional, Preschool Teacher, Family Associate, Parent Program Assistant, Educational Associate

### Job Outlook:

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Employment of teacher assistants is projected to grow 8 percent from 2016 to 2026, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Rising student enrollment along with state and federal funding for education programs should affect growth.

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/education-training-and-library/teacher-assistants.htm#tab-6>

### Career Path:

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The median annual wage for **teacher assistants** was \$25,410 in May 2016. Although some districts require applicants to have a high school diploma, most require at least 2 years of college or an associate's degree. The median annual wage for **preschool teachers** was \$28,790 in May 2016. Educational requirements, which vary by school district and position, range from a high school diploma to an associate's degree. In childcare centers, preschool teachers generally are required to have at 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.

<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/education-training-and-library/teacher-assistants.htm>

**Career Coach** – Search career information and current local wage data

<https://hostos-cuny.emsicc.com/careers/preschool-teacher-except-special-education/about>