(F15) Certificate

The Early Childhood/Paraprofessional Education certificate program will assist individuals in securing the education and credentials needed to obtain employment in child care facilities. The basic certificate is developed to assist persons to meet the minimal requirements for approval as an early childhood teacher at a freestanding facility or as a stepping-stone to the Early Childhood or Paraprofessional AAS degrees.

The minimal requirements established by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Laws for Early Childhood Teachers are two years of college, 19 years of age and six hours of approved credit dealing with the very young child or equivalent experience and credentials.

Work and Employment

The employment of elementary and secondary paraprofessionals is dependent upon publicly-funded resources. Most employment opportunities in this occupation will result from fairly high attrition or turnover. Many employment opportunities include part-time positions but full-time employment is available on a limited basis. These positions usually merit entry-level pay.

Advancement to other occupations related to child and adolescent care is possible with further education, training and experience.

Special Considerations

The Early Childhood Education Basic certificate must be completed prior to enrolling in the Early Childhood Education Advanced certificate.

Anyone interested in employment in the education field needs patience, a strong sense of service and the ability to relate well to children. Good interpersonal and communication skills are essential. Creativity and good problem-solving skills are desirable, as is a love of learning.

Program Contacts at Sauk Valley Community College
Counseling Office, 815/835-6354;
Janis Jones, Assistant Professor of Education, 815/835-6410.

Professional Core Requirements

- ECE 114 - Child Care and Development 3 Semester hour(s)
- ECE 115 - Principles of Early Childhood Education 3 Semester hour(s)

Total Hours Required for Certificate: 6

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