

This one-course program provides students with an overview of the development of children birth through age three. Students will explore physical, social, emotional, cognitive and linguistic growth, as well as factors that affect learning and development. Emphasis will be placed on the role of family and community partnership in effective care-giving programs. Students will also design developmentally-appropriate curriculum, including observation and formal and informal assessment techniques. Students will demonstrate understanding of the Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS) by performing an evaluation in an infant/toddler classroom setting. Students will participate in a minimum of 50 hours of required field experience.

This program aligns to the Gateways ITC Level 4 requirements that include completion of a high school diploma or GED and an ECE Level 4 credential.

The Infant and Toddler Care certificate program will assist individuals in securing the education and credentials needed to obtain employment working with infants and toddlers in childcare facilities. This certificate allows individuals to obtain greater proficiency in the areas of study required in the care of infants and toddlers.

Credential Program Description

Students enrolled in the Early Childhood programs at Sauk Valley Community College will be eligible to complete credentials through Gateways to Opportunities State Professional Development System for ECE levels 2, 3, and 4 and Infant Toddler Care level 4. Benefits of this credentialing process increase a student's employability through ExceleRate Illinois and makes students eligible for scholarship opportunities and wage differentials. **Students must earn a "C" or better in all ECE courses used to fulfill Gateways credentialing requirements.**

Work and Employment

The Infant Toddler Care program is designed to educate professionals for a diverse and challenging field. Employment opportunities for graduates of the Infant Toddler Care program are very positive, whether pursuing a career in a group day care or in family care.

Criminal History Check Policy

Illinois law requires licensed early childhood programs to conduct a criminal background investigation on applicants for employment. Employment of individuals who have been convicted of committing or attempting to commit offenses that may put children in harm's way is prohibited. Laws vary according to the agency and their licensing body.

Students who perform classroom observations through coursework at Sauk Valley Community College may be required by the selected school/site to undergo a criminal background check prior to placement. Students may be denied at any observation site based on the results of that check.

Students who feel their criminal background may exclude them from observation or employment should seek counseling with SVCC faculty or advising staff early in their program to determine how it may affect their participation and eligibility.

Program Contacts at Sauk Valley Community College

- Academic Advising, 815-835-6354
- Beth Smaka, Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education, 815-835-6388

Total Hours Required - 4 Hours

Major Field Requirements

- ECE 109 - Found of Infant & Toddler Care (4 Semester Hours)