EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Employment of child care workers is projected to incur little or no change compared to all occupations through 2021. The proportion of children being cared for exclusively by parents or other relatives is likely to continue to decline, spurring demand for additional child care workers. High replacement needs should create good job opportunities for child care workers. Qualified persons who are interested in this work should have little trouble finding and keeping a job. The training and qualifications required of child care workers vary widely. Each state has its own licensing requirements that regulate caregiver training; these range from a high school diploma to community college courses to a college degree in child development or early childhood education.

JCCC has articulation agreements for transfer from this program into a bachelor’s degree program at several regional colleges and universities. Concern about the safety and supervision of school-aged children during nonschool hours also should increase demand for before and after school programs and the child care workers who staff them. Some States are instituting programs to improve early childhood education, such as offering full day kindergarten and universal preschool. These programs, along with projected higher enrollment growth for preschool age children, will create many new jobs for child care workers.

Employment Information

**Greater Kansas City Area:** In 2016, those employed in the early childhood education field held an estimated 14,604, with 14,027 jobs projected by 2021 (-4%) in the fifteen counties that make up the Kansas City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Of those, 2,792 were preschool teachers, with 2,874 projected by 2021 (+3%) and 11,813 were childcare workers, with 11,153 projected by 2021 (-6%).

**State:** In Kansas, those employed in the early childhood education field held an estimated 20,650 jobs in 2016, with 19,729 jobs projected by 2021 (-4.5%). Of those, 3,782 were preschool teachers (3,991 projected, +6%) and 16,868 were childcare workers (15,738 projected, -7%).

**National:** About 2,128,230 jobs were held in the early childhood education field in 2016, with 2,105,365 jobs projected by 2021 (-1.1%). Of those, 490,083 were preschool teachers (514,464 projected, +5%) and 1,638,147 were childcare workers (1,590,900 projected, -3%).

September 2017
Salary Information

**Greater Kansas City Area:** Preschool teachers employed in the Greater Kansas City area earned an average hourly wage of $10.89 in 2016. Additionally, childcare workers earned $8.67 per hour.

**State:** Preschool teachers in Kansas earned an average hourly wage of $10.49 in 2016. Additionally, childcare workers earned $8.40 per hour.

**National:** Preschool teachers working full-time earned an average hourly wage of $13.72 in 2016. Additionally, childcare workers earned $8.56 per hour.

JCCC Placement and Salary Information

The JCCC Office of Institutional Research conducts a follow-up study of program completers one year after completion. Eighty-three percent of the graduates who responded to the follow-up study conducted during 2015-16, and were employed, were employed in a related field and reported earning an average hourly wage of $13.40.

**Note:** Salary Information for Greater Kansas City, State, and National is based on EMSI 2016 third quarter data. JCCC information for career program completers is based on data supplied by respondents to follow-up studies and is not necessarily representative of all career program completers. Other sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics.