



Child Care Worker

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Job Description:

Child care worker supervise, care for, and teach children in day-care programs.

Gross Monthly Income:

\$1,250

Wages:

Average median yearly pay is about \$16,000 a year in Utah.

Schedule: Most centers are open 10-12 hours. No late evenings or weekends. Probably work part time.



Advancement:

Advancement opportunities for child care workers are limited. Experienced, skilled workers can advance to supervisory positions with large day-care centers or preschools. Some child care workers may open their own day care centers.

Education & Experience:

- ◆ Completed High School
- ◆ Complete short term on-the-job training

High

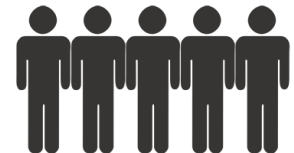
School Courses:

- ◆ Child Development
- ◆ Food & Nutrition
- ◆ Psychology
- ◆ Safety and First Aid

Work Conditions:

- ◆ High level of social contact with children, parents, and staff.
- ◆ Deal with unpleasant, angry, or rude customers sometimes.
- ◆ Greatly responsible for the health and safety of children.
- ◆ Work as part of a team.
- ◆ Are exposed to disease and infections monthly.
- ◆ Work very near children. They may lift, carry, and hold children.
- ◆ **Travel:** None

Job Outlook:



Very Large

Hours a Week:

30

Leisure Time:

High

Knowledge:

- ◆ Customer & Personal Service
- ◆ Psychology
- ◆ Education & Training
- ◆ English Language

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Overview

Today, in the average family both parents work to pay the bills. Therefore, the demand for good, quality day-care continues to rise. Parents need child care for after-school time, business hours, weekends, and even overnight, as some people work late night shifts.

Children at day-care centers vary in age. Most are under five years old. However, older kids often go to day-care after school. Child care workers take care of these children while they are at day-care.

On a typical day, child care workers begin by meeting children as they arrive at the center. They help them remove and hang up their coats. Then they direct children to an activity. Each day, child care workers organize several group activities such as games. They also supervise individual activities, such as finger painting. When parents pick up their children, child care workers talk to them about what happened that day.

The entire day is a learning opportunity for young children. Thus, even a simple activity such as coloring can be used to teach sharing skills. Child care workers teach children physical, emotional, intellectual, and social skills. They do this by leading a variety of activities. These include reading books, playing games, singing songs, and playing outside.

Child care workers also take care of children's physical needs. For example, they take care of children who are sick. They help kids use the restroom and clean up afterward. With very young children, workers must change their diapers. Child care workers make sure that children eat and rest during the day. They prepare meals and snacks, feed the children, and clean up afterward. They also make sure that children get some exercise.

An additional responsibility for child care workers is caring for children's emotional needs. For example, they calm those who are upset. They also stop children from fighting and may discipline them.

Child care workers watch children's developmental growth. If they see signs of emotional or other developmental problems, they discuss them with their supervisor. They also discuss these problems with the child's parents. Child care workers may keep records of children's developmental progress.

Pathway:
***Family & Consumer
Science***