

How to Become an Early Childhood Educator through the Apprenticeship Program

1. Register as an Apprentice

- Must have an Ontario Secondary School Diploma or equivalent
- Must have an employer who agrees to sponsor the apprentice
- Register as a Child Development Practitioner Apprentice with the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training, and Skills Development (MLITSD) using the Skilled Trades Ontario Portal (STOP)
- An apprenticeship Training Agreement must be signed by the apprentice, employer and the Employment Training Consultant assigned by MLITSD
- Register with the Ontario College of Trades and pay the membership fee prior to the training
- Indicate to the MLITSD which college is preferred
- Once an Offer of Classroom Training Letter is received from MLITSD, the apprentice can pursue the "in-school" portion of the apprenticeship
- "In-school" training refers to the formal education portion, delivered in the model chosen by the college of choice

Apprenticeship Program

- "In-school" training, 720 hours at an MLITSD-approved Ontario College of Arts and Technology
- 17 theory courses delivered in-person, online, or in hybrid/blended model
- 6 field placements (which may be done at apprentice's workplace depending on the College)
- On-the-Job Training, 5280 hours
- Complete all competencies of Apprenticeship Training Standard as witness by sponsor

Certification

- Submit completed Apprenticeship training standard Log Book to MLITSD
- Apply to graduate from College CDP Apprenticeship Program
- MLITSD issues the Child Development Practitioner Certificate of Apprenticeship

ECE Bridging

- Upon graduation of CDP Program, apprentice must apply to ECE Bridging program at the College where "in-school" training occurred
- Complete additional course and practical requirements (3 General Education and 2 ECE Communication courses) to attain Early Childhood Education (ECE) Diploma

College of ECE Membership

- Upon receipt of Early Childhood Education (ECE) Ontario College Diploma, register with the College of Early Childhood Educators to become a Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE)