

Education

What early childhood developers do

- Look after and teach children under the age of 6 – mainly through play and stories
- Stimulate growth and development in all areas of the child’s life
- Understand and apply how and why children grow, learn and change
- Teach children the basics of language, counting, colours and shapes
- Help children understand and process emotions and experiences
- Build children’s self-confidence on a physical and emotional level
- Help children develop the necessary motor skills (to use their bodies)

What primary school teachers do

- Teach children from grade R to four (foundation phase) and from grades four to seven (intermediate phase)
- Stimulate growth and development in all areas of children’s lives
- Understand and apply how and why children grow, learn and change
- Plan and organise educational activities
- Assign and correct homework
- Assess how much children have learnt
- Help children to understand and process emotions and experiences
- Maintain discipline and a learning environment in the class
- Take responsibility for extracurricular activities, such as sport coaching

What high school & FET teachers do

- Teach children from Grade 8 to 12
- Teach learners at further education and training (FET) colleges
- Stimulate growth and development in all areas of high school children’s lives
- Assess how much teenagers and young adults have learnt
- Maintain discipline and an environment conducive to learning
- Help teenagers and young adults to understand and process emotions and experiences
- Take responsibility for extracurricular activities, such as sport coaching

Career options

Early Childhood Development Education
Grade eight to 12 teacher
Principal
Deputy principal
Teacher’s assistant
School administrator
Intervention co-ordinator
Child psychologist
Therapist
Social worker

Primary school teachers
Grade R to seven teacher
Grade four to seven teacher
Principal
Deputy principal
Teacher’s assistant
School administrator
Intervention co-ordinator
Child psychologist
Therapist
Social worker

High school & FET teachers
Grade eight to 12 teacher
Principal
Deputy principal
Teacher’s assistant
School administrator
Intervention co-ordinator
Child psychologist
Therapist
Social worker

Education

Skills you’ll need

Interest in teaching children
Ability to work with children
Creativity
Self-discipline
Maturity
Patience
Compassion
Stamina
A positive outlook
Problem-solving skills
Physical health

Early childhood development
Primary school teaching
High school & FET teaching

Choose these subjects

MUST HAVE
● Two languages, one on home language level
● School subject you want to teach

USEFUL
● A vernacular language at home or first additional language level
● Mathematics
● Natural science
● Life sciences
● Geography
● History
● Economic and management sciences
● Life orientation
● Visual arts

Professional bodies

South African Council for Educators Private Bag X127, Centurion 0046 Tel: 086 1007 223 Fax: 012 663 9238/012 679 9726 www.sace.org.za	South African Congress for Early Childhood Development PO Box 673, Pretoria 0001 Tel: 012 321 5154/5/6 www.sacecd.co.za	ECD Learning Community Tel: 021 462 3902 www.ecdlc.org.za	Centre for Early Childhood Development 20 Rosemead Avenue, Claremont, Cape Town 7708 Tel: 021 683 2420 www.cecd.org.za	The South African Council on Higher Education PO Box 94, Persequor Technopark, Brummeria 0020 Tel: 012 349 3840 www.che.ac.za
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Qualifications

Bachelor of Education (BEd) in Early Childhood Development and Foundation phase
Diploma in Grade R teaching
BEd (Honours) in Educational psychology
Bachelor of Arts (Early childhood and youth)
Postgraduate Certificate in Education (ECD & Foundation Phase)
– if you have another degree already

Useful contacts

Department of Basic Education
Funza Lushaka Bursary Programme
www.funzalushaka.doe.gov.za
The Bursary Register
Tel: 011 672 6559
Email: rlevin@mweb.co.za