

See Mrs. Oppy for more information

Early Childhood Education

What is it, and why is it such a great opportunity?

What is ECE???

Early Childhood Education (ECE) prepares students for employment in early childhood and related services and provides foundations for study in higher education that leads to early childhood education, and other child-related careers. The course of study includes, but is not limited to: planning and guiding developmentally appropriate activities for young children; developmentally appropriate practices of guidance and discipline; application of basic health and safety principles when working with children; overview of management and operation of licensed child care facilities or educational settings; Indiana state child care regulations and licensing requirements or regulations related to education of young; and employability skills. This course is recommended for students with interests in early childhood education and related career paths and provides the foundation for study in higher education that leads to early childhood education and/or child-related careers.

The following two components are part of the ECE course.

Related instruction: Classroom based activities and lessons will be taught during the same time as the student is receiving on-the-job training at the Early Learning Academy Preschool at Pleasant Hill Elementary. Classroom instruction will be individualized in two ways: (a) using group instruction, but individualizing assignments so that the learning is applied to each student's experience, and (b) using individual study assignments such as projects, study guides, and individual reading assignments.

On-the-Job Training: actual work experience at the Early Learning Academy Preschool, that relates directly to the student's career objectives. The student shall have the opportunity to apply the concepts, skills, and attitudes learned during Related Instruction, as well as the skills and knowledge that have been learned in other courses. The student shall be placed under the direct supervision of experienced employees who serve as supervisors and mentors.

- A six-credit course (2 credits related instruction; 4 credits on-the-job training) offered over one school year.
- An elective (Career Academic Sequence) and directed elective course for Core 40, Core 40 with Academic Honors, and Core 40 with Technical Honors Diplomas
- Counts toward the 8-10 Career-Technical credits required for Core 40 with Technical Honors Diplomas

Benefits of ECE

Students benefit because program:

- Provides a wide variety of career training while they attend high school.
- Provides employability skills through an organized plan of training under actual on-the-job conditions.
- Integrates application of academic skills to the workplace.
- Provides an opportunity for employment in the community after they complete high school.
- Increases interest in other school subjects because subjects become relevant.
- Increases responsibility and attitudes necessary for individual maturity and job competence.
- Develops safe work habits, positive attitudes, and strong work ethic.
- Guides them in making intelligent choices of career options.
- Aids in the development of resumes and portfolios.
- Provides opportunities for school-based and work-based learning.
- Enable a stronger transition from education to career by combining the efforts of employers and school personnel in job training.
- Extends educational opportunities beyond the school's physical resources.
- Encourages them to complete their education and allows them to earn income.

(Source: Information taken from Cooperative Education Policies and Procedures Manual 2005)

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