**I want to start my career in...**

**Child Development**

**What will I do?**
A career in Child Development consists of teaching and educating preschool to middle school students. The purpose of this role is designed to promote social and intellectual growth.

**What are the important facts?**

**Job Growth**
Silicon Valley will always be in need of preschool and middle school educators. As long as there are children, there will be a demand for educators.

In California, Child Development is expected to have 980 job openings between 2012 and 2022. This means there is a 13% employment increase in the state--this level of employment increase means there will be plenty of jobs available in this field.

**Wage/Salary**
Average hourly wage in San Jose begins at $17.18, with an annual salary of $35,730. In Silicon Valley, the living wage for a single person is $16.00 and hour.

**Required Training**
Child Development Educators are required to have a minimum of 6 months-1 year of educational training.

There are three routes to get the necessary training to receive a degree in Child Development:
1. Certificate of Completion in Child Development
2. Associates Degree in Child Development
3. Bachelor’s Degree in Child Development

**What are typical tasks?**
- Organize and lead activities designed to promote physical, mental, and social development.
- Teach basic skills, such as proper hygiene, social skills, colors, shapes, writing, and early level math skills.
- Prepare materials and classrooms for daily activities.
- Establish a clear lesson plan that allows individuals to succeed academically.
- Meet with parents or guardians to discuss their children's progress.
- Establish and enforce rules for proper behavior.

**What would make this career a great fit for me?**
- Have a passion for working with children.
- Enjoy teaching and being in front of a classroom majority of the day.
- Able to maintain composure during stressful situations.
- Able to develop and follow lesson plans.
- Possess reading, writing, speaking, and math skills.

**Where can I get the training I need?**
- De Anza College
- Foothill College
- Gavilan College
- Mission College
- Foothill College
- West Valley College

CareerOneStop. (2016). Wages for Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education in San Jose, CA.
CareerOneStop. (2016). Wages for Education Administrators, Preschool and Childcare Center/Program in San Jose, CA.
Google Images: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kindergarten_or_Special_Education_teacher_-_US_Census_Bureau.jpg
I want to start my career in...

Child Development

**Step 1**
Learn the skills employers say you need. Begin your education.

**Education & Training:** Child Development

- **Career Technical Education Training**
  - Certificate of Completion in Early Childhood Teaching
  - Center for Employment

- **Community College**
  - Certificate of Completion in Child Development
  - De Anza College
  - Foothill College
  - Gavilan College
  - Mission College
  - West Valley College

- **Community College Associates Degree in Child Development**
  - De Anza College
  - Foothill College
  - Gavilan College
  - Mission College
  - West Valley College

- **Four Year University Bachelor’s Degree in Child Development AND Teaching Credential**
  - Santa Clara University
  - San Francisco State
  - San Jose State
  - Stanford University

**Step 2**
Find a job that fits your level of education and training.

**Employment Pathways for Child Development**

- **Entry Level Positions:**
  - **Teacher Assistants**
    - Certificate of Completion in Child Development OR Associates Degree
  - Employers:
    - Employers range from any preschool, middle school or daycare.
    - There are a variety of employers in the San Jose area.
  - **Wage Information:**
    - Average hourly wage in San Jose is $15.50, with an annual salary of $31,910

- **Mid-Level Positions:**
  - **Preschool Teacher**
    - Bachelor’s Degree AND a Teaching Credential
  - Employers:
    - Employers range from any preschool, middle school or daycare.
    - There are a variety of employers in the San Jose area.
  - **Wage Information:**
    - Average hourly wage in San Jose is $17.18, with an annual salary of $35,730.

- **Advanced Skills:**
  - **Center Director**
    - Bachelor’s Degree is required plus 2-3 years of work experience.
  - Employers:
    - Employers range from any preschool, middle school or daycare.
  - **Labor Market Information:**
    - Average hourly wage in San Jose $27.63, with an annual salary or $57,470.

In order to advance from Entry-Level to Mid-Level positions, it takes 2-3 years of work experience as a Teachers Assistant, plus higher education, such as a Bachelor’s Degree. There are many different kinds of Entry-Level and Mid-Level positions a recent graduate in Child Development can acquire. This is just meant to act more as a guide.
What are the Skills Employers Look for in Child Development?

**Employers are looking for someone who:**

- Has their Associate's Degree in Child Development or Certificate of Completion in Child Development.
- Has a passion for working with children grades K-5th.
- Enjoys working on a team and collaborating with others.
- Is a reliable and dependable employee.
- Is able to stand for long periods of times. If individuals decide to go into teaching, it may require being on your feet for the majority of your day.
- Is capable of talking in front of large groups.
- Is able to maintain composure during stressful situations.
- Has strong conflict management skills--this is important for when students get in arguments with friends and they need an adult to help solve the problem.
- Enjoys being in a classroom setting.

**Employers may also call me:**

- Teacher Assistant
- Early Learning Coordinator
- Preschool-Associate Teacher

**Moving up: Child Development**

*Below are a few examples of how you can eventually move up in your career. These career advancements are options for when you are ready to advance from entry-level to mid or advanced-level positions.*

**Example Career Ladder:**