



Established in 2008



The academy provides an opportunity for High School students to prepare for entry in post- secondary education, as well as direct entry into a related child care career upon graduation.

**THE EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER EDUCATION ACADEMY FOCUSES ON BROAD, TRANSFERABLE SKILLS AND STRESSES THE UNDERSTANDING AND DEMONSTRATION OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD INDUSTRY.**

During the 4 year program, students will work to obtain the Early Childhood Professional Certificate (ECPC) from the State of Florida, which allows students upon completion to gain professional employment with children from birth to eight years of age. The Academy provides hands-on experience working with young children in the Little Panthers preschool.



**CURRICULUM**



Students complete a 600 hour program to prepare for a position of “Child Care Educator” through completion of Early Childhood Education 1 and 2 and Early Childhood Education 3 and 4 Honors.

- 🐾 Career Field Trips
- 🐾 Educational Portfolio and Professional Resource File
- 🐾 Career field trips to actual classrooms
- 🐾 Junior Achievement
- 🐾 Completion of Department of Children and Families Childcare Training Manual
- 🐾 Junior and Senior year internships in local preschools and Elementary Schools

**SPECIAL FEATURES**



Career shadowing instills the importance of professional attire, provides in school setting and encourages positive professional attitudes and work habits.

Participation in Florida Future Educators of America (FFEA) is encouraged to allow students to gain leadership skills. The FFEA scholarship Program was implemented to assist the district “grow its own teachers”. Qualified High School Seniors are eligible to apply. This is a wonderful opportunity to earn free money for college.

**CERTIFICATIONS**



During the four year program, students will work to obtain the Early Childhood Professional Certificate from the State of Florida as well as the Child Development Associate (CDA) which is recognized nationally.

To meet the requirements for these certification, a student must:

- Obtain 480 hours of direct work experience with children eight years and younger in an adult-supervised environment
- 120 hours of classroom instruction
- Create and maintain a professional resource file and portfolio
- Complete the mandated DCF Child Care Training Manual
- Pass competency exams on each of the 7 DCF Training modules

The CDA allows students upon completion to gain professional employment nationwide.



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