

ECE INDIGENOUS PATHWAY

Step-by-Step Guide

As a registered early childhood educator (ECE), you play a vital role in children's early development. Your passion for nurturing young minds can lead to a fulfilling career where you inspire, educate, and care for our youngest learners through inclusive, outdoor based and culturally enriched programs, benefiting our indigenous communities.

Step 1

Early Childhood Education Diploma

To become a registered early childhood educator, you need a diploma or equivalent education. Then you need to register with the **College of Early Childhood Educators (the College)**.

Because no two journeys are the same, there are multiple ways to becoming an ECE. Keep reading to find the way that works best for you.

Identify your path:



Start Early!

In Grades 11 and 12, you may get an early start with a Child Development Practitioner Apprenticeship through the **Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)** and/or related college courses and training through a dual credit program. Talk to your guidance counsellor to see what is available at your school.



Diploma Program

Complete a 2 year diploma program in Early Childhood Education from an **Ontario College of Applied Arts and Technology (OCAAT)**.

To apply you need an **Ontario Secondary School Diploma** or equivalent, with a **Grade 12 English credit**.



Equivalent programs

Not all ECEs complete a college diploma program. You can complete other programs recognized by the **College of Early Childhood Educators**.

Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship program includes on-the-job and in-school training, totaling 6000 hours over three years: 5280 hours on-the-job and 720 hours in-school. In-school training can be full-time for a few weeks, one day a week, part-time at night, or online, depending on the provider.

Learn more about **Apprenticeships**.

Indigenous Institutes

Anishinabek Educational Institute
First Nations Technical Institute (FNTI)
Kenjgewin Teg
Ogwehoweh Skills and Trades Training Centre
Iohahio Akwesasne Education and Training Institute

Seven Generations Education Institute
Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig
Six Nations Polytechnic
Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute



Grants

Financial support is available to eligible applicants in the form of an education grant, travel grant, and training allowance. Learn how you can become eligible by visiting [ecegrants.on.ca](https://www.ontario.ca/page/become-registered-early-childhood-educator).



To learn about different grants available and which you may be eligible for, [click here](#).

Step 2

Register with the College of Early Childhood Educators



Once you have earned your Early Childhood Education Diploma, you must **apply to the College of Early Childhood Educators (the College)** and get a certificate of registration in order to practice.

You will need to pay a one-time application fee and a yearly registration fee. **Please refer to the College of Early Childhood Educators for the most up to date pricing information.**

Step 3

Career Path



ECEs can practice in a wide variety of settings that may include:

- Licensed child care
- Recreation Programs
- Hospitals, government, advocacy
- Family support programs (ex: EarlyON centres)
- Kindergarten and other classroom settings
- Transition Homes for women and children

