

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Career  
Pathway

## Course Offerings/Credits

Minimum of 3 Courses

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Child Psychology            | .5 |
| Child Development           | .5 |
| Working with Young Children | .5 |
| CPR and Child Care Training | .5 |
| Psychology                  | .5 |

## Career Choices

- Early Childhood Education
- Elementary/Secondary Education
- Day Care Worker
- Special Education
- Social Services

## Learning Opportunities

- Partnership with pre-school
- Elementary School Job Shadowing



## Pathway Description

Students choosing to follow the need for Early Childhood Education services is growing, as are the opportunities in this career field. The years before a child reaches kindergarten are among the most critical in his or her life to influence learning. This pathway, which is for individuals who plan to work with young children, focuses on careers related to education and training services that assist children in their development. These careers include Early Childhood Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Day Care provider for children or the elderly.

The Child Development Program is designed to provide the most current and comprehensive content to students about the growth and development of the young child, including the emotional, social, and intellectual needs common to the development of children from conception through adolescence. This program focuses on basic competencies such as the following: Real Life Connections to parenting, Career Opportunities, Professional behavior, Application of Child Development Principles and Communication Skills.

## Pathway Recommendations

Students interested in pursuing a pathway in this area should meet with their guidance counselor to select the best sequence of courses that will satisfy the North Smithfield High School graduation requirements and at the same time, meet the criteria to receive a seal of concentration in Early Childhood Education.

Students will also develop a child care related focus which will culminate in field experiences for the required senior project. It is recommended that students choosing this concentration, actively seek postsecondary schools to further their education in this field.