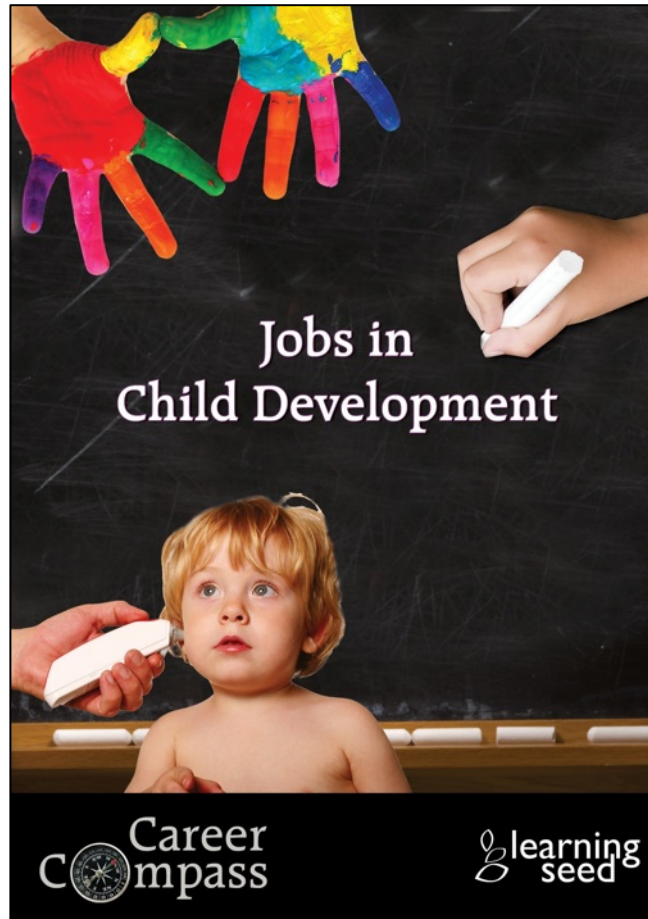


Career Compass: Jobs in Child Development



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Jobs in Child Development

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Summary

This program explores four careers in child development: teaching in public day school and in private after-school environments, social work and developmental therapy. Descriptions of the education, experience, skill development and personality traits generally considered as requirements for success, as well as the duties and likely career paths for select positions are delivered through personal stories told by professionals in select careers and by supplemental narrative. Besides the central professional's career, additional positions for related and specialized areas are described in each segment. A comprehensive review is presented after each chapter, with a final recap at the end of the film.

Careers in Teaching

Main Careers Covered: School Teacher and After-school Teacher

Interviewees: Kelly Lopez, Fourth grade public school teacher
Brett Ettenhofer, After-school teacher

Teachers are charged with helping children expand their knowledge, social skills and their love of learning. In Chapter One, students follow Kelly Lopez, a fourth-grade elementary school teacher and Brett Ettenhofer, an after-school teacher at a licensed child care provider. Kelly discusses her role in relation to her students, and her interaction with fellow educators, her support team and the school administration. Brett, an after-school teacher who leads his students in academic, athletic and arts projects, shares the importance of lesson plan development and organized physical activity. After-school teachers also depend on their skills in problem solving, communication and critical thinking.

Coursework, degree programs and professional certifications are discussed for teachers of various grade levels and specializations, in both day school and after school settings. Students also learn about teaching-related career choices in the areas of school administration, pre-school teaching and camp counseling.

Careers in Social Work

Main Career Covered: Social Worker

Interviewee: Julie Ekman, Middle school social worker

This chapter describes the responsibilities of social workers who provide services and assistance in a school setting so as to help improve the lives of children and their families. A middle school social worker, Julie Ekman talks about her efforts to meet the challenges of six hundred seventh and eighth grade students, one child at a time. Julie's focus is to help students be educationally and academically successful, including those who may be struggling academically, visually or physically impaired, or who have social, emotional or behavioral issues that impact their ability to learn.

Students discover the unique set of personal skills, educational and licensure requirements and the valuable on-the-job or life experiences required for success in this field. Additional career options of school psychologist, guidance counselor and foster care social worker are also mentioned.

Careers in Developmental Therapy

Main Career Covered: Developmental Therapist

Interviewee: Wanda Bryant, Developmental therapist from a private therapeutic clinic

Chapter Three follows Wanda Bryant, a developmental therapist whose lifelong interest in children led her to pursue a profession that enables her to make a difference those children's lives. Working with children as young as eighteen months old, helps them learn the tasks of everyday living by teaching them how to improve both motor and social skills. Wanda works with children both individually and in groups.

Students learn that crucial personality traits essential to being a successful therapist include sensitivity, patience, perseverance, and understanding of what makes people tick. Careers in the field of child development include course in psychology and science are foundational and a college degree in child development or education is required. In some cases, a master's degree in occupational therapy or special education is also needed. Pediatric physical therapists and audiologists are careers related to that of developmental therapist.

Teaching Careers Handout

Where to Work

Public, private and parochial schools
Charter schools
Daycare corporations

Non-Profits
Colleges and Universities
Businesses offering childcare programs

Career Options

Administrator

Directs subject-area programs, supervises curriculum specialists, and works with them to evaluate curricula, oversee career counseling programs and testing.

Assistant Principal

Aids the principal in the overall administration, being primarily responsible for scheduling classes, ordering textbooks, coordinating transportation, handling student discipline and attendance problems, social and recreational programs, and health and safety matters.

Principal

Sets the academic tone of the school, and runs much of the operation, including budgeting, hiring teachers, and communicating with the district and school board. They determine standards, mission statements, and goals.

Teacher – After-School

Requires many of the same daily tasks as daytime teaching. After school teachers lead their students in academic, athletic, and arts projects, and provide a place for students to be safe while their parents are at work.

Teacher – Daytime

Creates daily lessons plans, using those plans to develop the talents and skills of each student, both individually and as a group. They use problem-solving skills to adapt to students' different learning styles and guide academic growth and social skills.

Teacher – ESL

Provides education for immigrants or other people whose native language is not English (ESL – English as a Second Language)

Teacher – Special Education

Works with children and youth who have a variety of disabilities, using or changing the standard coursework to meet the child's individual needs.

Education

- High school foundation coursework math, science, history, speech, English
- Undergraduate degree in education designed for early childhood, elementary or high school
- Practical Experience - Student teaching /teacher's aid
- Graduate degree in education or your specialty
- PhD – for specialists teaching at the university level and for administrators
- Continuing education / lifelong learning
- State certification and licensure

Social Work Careers Handout

Where to Work

Hospitals
Mental health facilities

Private counseling practices
Schools

Career Options

Foster Care Worker

Creates and implements treatment and permanency plans for children and their foster-care families. They also provide clinical input to ensure the most appropriate care is offered to each child.

School Psychologist

Provides services and assistance to help improve the lives of children and their families.

Guidance Counselor

Helps students deal with personal and family issues, sometimes helping students meet schoolwork challenges and evaluate their academic options for the future. They also implement state programs that teach students about child abuse or drugs.

Education

- High school foundation coursework in English, science, communications, and psychology
- Bachelor's degree in social work
- Practical experience – Babysitting, working in a daycare facility, or volunteering to help children with special needs
- MCSW – Master in Clinical Social Work
- State licensure by working under a licensed senior social worker

Developmental Therapy Careers Handout

Where to Work

Hospital

School

Career Options

Audiologist

Identifies and evaluates children with hearing loss, and refers them for medical testing. They also provide auditory training, aural rehabilitation, speech reading and listening device orientation.

Developmental Therapist

Helps children acquire specific skills, such as physical movement and coordination, and to develop motor and social skills and learn the tasks of everyday living. They observe children and their behavior to help them function better in school and other settings.

Occupational Therapist

Helps patients improve their ability to perform tasks in living and working environments, including those who suffer from mental, physical, developmental, or emotional conditions.

Pediatric Physical Therapist

Helps infants and children with special needs, such as developmental delays or chronic physical conditions, improve their gross and fine motor skills, balance and coordination, strength and endurance, as well as cognitive and sensory processing and integration.

Education

- Foundational coursework in psychology, science, and child development provide a strong foundation
- Bachelor's degree in child development or education to become proficient in physical growth and development, and human development
- Master's degree in occupational therapy or special education
- Master's degree in audiology; AuD – a doctoral degree in audiology
- Certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and other first aid
- In-the-clinic field experience
- Accreditation by the APTA, the American Physical Therapy Association
- State licensure

Suggested Activities

Guidance counselor – interview

Speak with an advisor at your school. Explain that you are interested in learning more about teaching careers, particularly guidance counseling, and request an appointment to interview the counselor. Plan to take notes during the interview so you can share your findings with the class. If guidance counseling is not your preference, substitute a different teaching career.

Prepare for your interview by selecting some questions from the list of Possible Interview Questions for School Counselors located at <http://www.schoolcounselor.com/resources/interview.htm>.

Social work – planning

Select one of the Career Options from the **Social Work Career Handout**. Do some research online to locate a private counseling practice, mental health facility, or an elementary school in a district other than your own. Contact the location you select, indicating you are interested in learning more about how a social worker performs her job. Ask if you can shadow a child or family-focused social worker during one of her planning days. Plan to share your findings.

Observe and record how the social worker develops individualized plans, and how she works with other staff and community resources in devising her assessments, interventions, and ongoing programs. What percentage of time is spent in planning versus actual providing support. How she sees the road to success in general and specifically for the client(s) for whom the plans were created that day.

Do a postmortem on your visit. What conclusions did you draw? Are you interested in further information about this career path – why or why not? Make a thoughtful entry in your journal.

Developmental therapy – education

Visit an academic advisor to discuss your interest in child development or associated child-focused developmental therapy career options. Obtain materials from universities offering related degrees.

Go online to those universities, and select one you would like to visit, making two appointments: one with the advisor specializing in your major, and the other with the school's career center. The office of career services is a part of the academic support group.

Ask the academic advisor to pretend you applying for admission, and to review the curriculum for your degree. Next, have the career counselor provide advice as if you just received the degree in which you are interested, including salary data, any hot new positions that are hitting the market, and what other personal rewards come with a career that helps children.

Record the results in your journal and plan to share them with the class.

Jobs in Child Development Matching

Match the words in the first column to the best available answer in the second column.

- | | | |
|-------|---|----------------------------|
| _____ | The different ways students learn, such as by reading, seeing a concept illustrated with images, or by hearing an idea explained to them. | 1) Social Worker |
| _____ | People working in this career work in a daycare facility, community center, elementary school or preschool teaching and caring for three- and four-year-olds. | 2) School Psychologist |
| _____ | These specialists identify and evaluate children with hearing loss, and refer them for medical testing. | 3) Guidance Counselors |
| _____ | These programs provide a place for students to get extra help with academics, participate in special activities, and feel safe while their parents are at work. | 4) Learning Style |
| _____ | This type of social worker conducts parenting workshops, counsels teachers and parents, and assesses students with special needs. | 5) Preschool Teacher |
| _____ | This therapist helps children develop motor, social and communication skills, working closely with parents. | 6) Occupational Therapist |
| _____ | This person helps students develop their articulation or speaking patterns. | 7) Audiologists |
| _____ | This therapist assesses the level of a child's ability to function in activities of everyday living, and helps them to learn to manage their daily tasks. | 8) Developmental Therapist |
| _____ | Both a service and science, this profession uses social theory and research methods to solve problems, while aiming to enhance the quality of life for people in need. | 9) After-School |
| _____ | These professionals help students deal with personal stress, peer pressure, family problems, and emotional issues, meeting schoolwork challenges and evaluating their academic options. | 10) Speech Therapist |

Jobs in Child Development

Matching Answer Key

Match the words in the first column to the best available answer in the second column.

- | | | |
|-----------|---|----------------------------|
| <u>4</u> | The different ways students learn, such as by reading, seeing a concept illustrated with images, or by hearing an idea explained to them. | 1) Social Worker |
| <u>5</u> | People working in this career work in a daycare facility, community center, elementary school or preschool teaching and caring for three- and four-year-olds. | 2) School Psychologist |
| <u>7</u> | These specialists identify and evaluate children with hearing loss, and refer them for medical testing. | 3) Guidance Counselors |
| <u>9</u> | These programs provide a place for students to get extra help with academics, participate in special activities, and feel safe while their parents are at work. | 4) Learning Style |
| <u>2</u> | This type of social worker conducts parenting workshops, counsels teachers and parents, and assesses students with special needs. | 5) Preschool Teacher |
| <u>8</u> | This therapist helps children develop motor, social and communication skills, working closely with parents. | 6) Occupational Therapist |
| <u>10</u> | This person helps students develop their articulation or speaking patterns. | 7) Audiologists |
| <u>6</u> | This therapist assesses the level of a child's ability to function in activities of everyday living, and helps them to learn to manage their daily tasks. | 8) Developmental Therapist |
| <u>1</u> | Both a service and science, this profession uses social theory and research methods to solve problems, while aiming to enhance the quality of life for people in need. | 9) After-School |
| <u>3</u> | These professionals help students deal with personal stress, peer pressure, family problems, and emotional issues, meeting schoolwork challenges and evaluating their academic options. | 10) Speech Therapist |

Jobs in Child Development

Multiple Choice

<p>1. This type of therapist works to help children function better in their daily lives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Pediatric b. Developmental c. Social d. Individual 	<p>5. In this line of work, you work for schools during the summer, or at nature centers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Peace Corps volunteer b. Preschool teacher c. Camp counselor d. Audiologist
<p>2. Pick <u>three</u> requirements for after-school teachers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Plan lessons b. Be adaptable c. Implement state drug programs d. Guide children's academic growth 	<p>6. Teachers do <u>not</u> usually work in this environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Daycare corporations b. Charter schools c. Businesses that offer childcare d. Developmental offices
<p>3. This therapist helps students develop their articulation or speaking patterns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. After-school therapist b. Special Ed therapist c. Speech therapist d. Occupational therapist 	<p>7. These professionals help students deal with personal stress, peer pressure, family problems, meeting schoolwork challenges and evaluating their academic options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Social worker b. Guidance counselor c. Speech therapist d. Administrator
<p>4. Using a lot of different approaches means taking risks. Teachers often have to be flexible and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Be open to advice from their peers b. Learn better by reading c. Have a specialty d. Develop their articulation patterns 	<p>8. Pick <u>two</u> things that most teachers do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Help children grow socially b. Develop therapy plans c. Introduce children to academic work d. Run the daily operations of the school

Jobs in Child Development

Multiple Choice

<p>1. This type of therapist works to help children function better in their daily lives:</p> <p>a. Pediatric b. Developmental c. Social d. Individual</p>	<p>5. In this line of work, you work for schools during the summer, or at nature centers:</p> <p>a. Peace Corps volunteer b. Preschool teacher c. Camp counselor d. Audiologist</p>
<p>2. Pick <u>three</u> requirements for after-school teachers:</p> <p>a. Plan lessons b. Be adaptable c. Implement state drug programs d. Guide children's academic growth</p>	<p>6. Teachers do <u>not</u> usually work in this environment:</p> <p>a. Daycare corporations b. Charter schools c. Businesses that offer childcare d. Developmental offices</p>
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Jobs in Child Development

Fill-In-The-Blank

Select the correct term from the list below and write it in the blank space. Some terms may be used more than once, while others not at all.

1. _____ generally have to have a college degree specially geared for teaching, for elementary school, high school or early childhood.
2. A _____ in a school setting provides services and assistance to help improve the lives of children and their families.
3. Careers in _____ that offer an opportunity to make a profound impact on the futures of children include pediatricians, teachers, art therapists, welfare officers, and daycare providers.
4. _____ help infants and children with special needs, such as developmental delays or chronic physical conditions, to improve their gross and fine motor skills, balance and coordination, strength and endurance, as well as cognitive and sensory processing and integration.
5. Teachers need to be flexible with students and be able to convince them that even though one student may be doodling while another is not, it is still okay because they each have different _____ styles.
6. _____ social workers create and implement treatment and permanency plans for children and their foster-care families, while also providing clinical input to ensure the most appropriate care is offered to each child.
7. Teaching in an _____ program requires many of the same daily tasks as a daytime teaching, including lesson planning, adaptability, and guiding children's academic growth and social skills.
8. _____ such as principals and assistant principals, run the operation of a school, including budgeting, hiring teachers, and communicating with the district and school board.
9. Most social workers, operating under the supervision of a more senior social worker, must put in many hours of hands-on time with clients if they are to obtain a _____ from the state in which they work.
10. _____ work in a daycare facility, community center, elementary school or preschool teaching and caring for three- and four-year-olds.

license	child development	after-school	learning
administrators	cognitive behavioral therapists	teachers	social worker
degree	pediatric physical therapists	foster care	preschool teachers

Jobs in Child Development

Fill-In-The-Blank Answer Key

1. **Teachers** generally have to have a college degree specially geared for teaching, for elementary school, high school or early childhood.
2. A **social worker** in a school setting provides services and assistance to help improve the lives of children and their families.
3. Careers in **child development** that offer an opportunity to make a profound impact on the futures of children include pediatricians, teachers, art therapists, welfare officers, and daycare providers.
4. **Pediatric physical therapists** help infants and children with special needs, such as developmental delays or chronic physical conditions, to improve their gross and fine motor skills, balance and coordination, strength and endurance, as well as cognitive and sensory processing and integration.
5. Teachers need to be flexible with students and be able to convince them that even though one student may be doodling while another is not, it is still okay because they each have different **learning** styles.
6. **Foster care** social workers create and implement treatment and permanency plans for children and their foster-care families, while also providing clinical input to ensure the most appropriate care is offered to each child.
7. Teaching in an **after-school** program requires many of the same daily tasks as a daytime teaching, including lesson planning, adaptability, and guiding children's academic growth and social skills.
8. **Administrators** such as principals and assistant principals, run the operation of a school, including budgeting, hiring teachers, and communicating with the district and school board.
9. Most social workers, operating under the supervision of a more senior social worker, must put in many hours of hands-on time with clients if they are to obtain a **license** from the state in which they work.
10. **Preschool teachers** work in a daycare facility, community center, elementary school or preschool teaching and caring for three- and four-year-olds.

Additional Resources

After-school

<http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/researchAmerica3PM.cfm>

Job Descriptions

<http://www.careerplanner.com>

LCSW – Licensed Clinical Social Worker

<http://www.lcsw.net/>

Occupational Outlook Handbook:

Education Administrator: <http://stats.bls.gov/OCO/OCOS007.HTM>

Occupational Therapist <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos078.htm>

Social Work <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos060.htm>

State Certification <http://www.bls.gov./oco069.htm>