What Can I Do With A Major In: Birth-Kindergarten

Western Carolina University Center for Career and Professional Development
828.227.7133, careers.wcu.edu

DESCRIPTION
Career paths include a variety of settings in which you will be able to meet children's social, emotional, physical, and intellectual needs from birth to kindergarten.

WHAT JOBS ARE AVAILABLE?

- Kindergarten Teacher
- Disability Programs
- Postsecondary Teacher
- Assistant Clinical Instructor
- Juvenile Services
- Preschool Teacher
- Human Services Agencies
- School Counselor
- Technical Ed teacher
- History Teacher
- Children’s Hospitals
- Child Care Worker
- Child Life Specialist
- Teaching Assistant
- Recreation Programs
- Special Ed Teachers
- Family Life Education
- Career Counselors
- Career Ed Teacher
- Sciences Teacher
- Children’s Health Programs
- Education Administrator
- Child Center Director
- Librarian
- High School Teacher
- Instructional Coordinator
- Middle School Teachers
- Social Worker
- Language Arts Teacher
- Art/other Teacher

WHO EMPLOYS STUDENTS WITH THIS MAJOR?
Schools | Pre-Schools | Hospitals | Social Services | Libraries | Social Work Agencies | Education Programs | Head Start | More-at-Four | Early Interventionists | Childhood Advocates

INTERNSHIP INFORMATION
At Western Carolina University there are numerous internship opportunities for students. In some cases internships are established through a faculty member in the student's major. Oftentimes students find part-time jobs in an area related to their field of study. When this happens, students should discuss with their academic advisor the possibility of receiving college credit. Generally, three hours of general elective credit can be earned for a minimum of 200 hours of experience.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
Before the end of your first semester a student must decide whether to pursue a professional education or early childhood course of study. Students who choose the professional education course of study will be certified to teach after they graduate while students who choose to pursue the early childhood course of study will not be certified. The early childhood course of study is for individuals who see themselves working with young children and their families in settings other than public schools.

Interested in learning more about the Birth-Kindergarten Major? Here’s a video on the classes you will be taking: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q50VvuIn-9g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q50VvuIn-9g)
WHAT SKILLS ARE LEARNED IN THE CLASSROOM?
Teamwork | Communication | Patience | Planning | Creativity | Lesson Planning | An Understanding of How School Systems Work | How to Work With Different Parents | How to Work With A Variety of Children

KNOWLEDGE
● Able to work collaboratively with parents and professionals to manage a positive classroom environment in order to create an accepting classroom environment and atmosphere.
● Demonstrate the role of a Birth-Kindergarten leader in schools and agencies as well as advocate for young children.

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES
● Western Carolina University Birth-Kindergarten Website: http://www.wcu.edu/academics/departments-schools-colleges/CEAP/ceap-depts/humanserv/bk/
● National Education Association: http://www.nea.org/
● Teach: https://www.teach.org/
● Tip: Join LinkedIn groups that are related to your career interest. Need help finding groups? Check out the “Groups You May Like” link under the Interests/Groups tab. Review the groups that professionals in your field of interest have joined and consider joining them as well.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SOURCES
● NC Tower: http://nctower.com
● Educational Oasis: http://www.educationoasis.com/resources/Professional_development/proforg.htm
(Lists various organizations related to teaching and different organizations depending on your specific teaching concentration)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
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