MiraCosta College’s Child Development Program will prepare you to become a teacher or director in early care and education programs (infant/toddler, preschool, or after-school), work in social services settings, and prepare for transfer in a variety of fields (teaching in elementary or secondary settings, program administration, school counseling, child psychology, etc.)

For more information, go to miracosta.edu/child
The Child Development Program at MiraCosta College is designed for students who want to obtain child development certificates and permits, earn an associate in arts degree and/or prepare to transfer to a four-year institution. Courses also are of interest to professionals already working in the field of child development.

MiraCosta College offers a number of child development courses, including:

- Art for Young Children
- Child Behavior & Guidance
- Child, Family & Community
- Child Growth & Development
- Language & Literacy in Early Childhood
- Children with Special Learning Needs
- Health, Safety & Nutrition
- Internship Studies
- Music & Movement for Young Children
- Programs for Infants & Toddlers
- Parent/Teacher Partnerships
- Programs & Curriculum in Early Childhood
- Science & Math for Young Children
- And many more!

MiraCosta College offers a wide range of classes that meet days, evenings, weekends and online. Students may choose to earn one or more of the following certificates, work toward an associate degree or complete requirements to transfer. For more information about each certificate and associate degree, please contact the Counseling Department at 760.795.6670 or consult the MiraCosta College catalog at catalog.miracosta.edu/disciplines/childdevelopment.

Certificate of Proficiency
Certificates of Proficiency are designed to be the first step in a career ladder. They are short-term certificates which introduce students to one aspect of a trade or occupation.

- Child Development Assistant Teacher 12 units

Certificates of Achievement
Certificates of Achievement are designed to prepare graduates for immediate employment in specific career areas. The total units required for a certificate varies with each discipline.

- Child Development Associate Teacher 18 units
- Early Intervention & Inclusion 27 units
- Child Development Teacher 43 units
- Child Development Master Teacher 52 units
- Child Development Site Supervisor 36 units

Associate Degrees
MiraCosta College’s Child Development Program offers the following associate degrees:

- Child Development Associate Teacher
- Child Development Teacher
- Child Development Master Teacher
- Child Development Site Supervisor
- AS-T in Early Childhood Education

Students planning to transfer and/or earn a degree should meet with a MiraCosta College counselor before or early in their first semester to identify courses that will meet requirements for transfer. Students interested in earning a Certificate of Achievement should also plan to meet with a counselor, especially when planning for general education courses.

The college’s beautiful Child Development Center provides both academic instruction to students and child care services to student, staff and community families. MiraCosta College’s Child Development Program offers a model of best practices in early childhood education while preparing students for rewarding careers by providing learning opportunities through observation, in-class interactions and apprenticeships with young children and their families.

Students completing the Child Development Program pursue a wide variety of careers including infant/toddler care, preschool teaching (including Head Start), elementary and secondary education, early childhood special education, program administration, school counseling, child psychology, child advocacy, social work and community services.

“The Child Development professors at MiraCosta College have not only taught me about theories and developmentally appropriate practices, but they have also helped me put this knowledge into practice within the field of early childhood education. The Child Development professors and supervising teachers at the Child Development Center have provided me with the foundation to be a skillful teacher.” —Maria Lopez