

## **Executive Summary**

### ***Preschool Education & Care Certificate – 22 Credits***

Post-Secondary Certificate A

### ***Infant and Toddler Education & Care Certificate – 22 Credits***

Post-Secondary Certificate A

These certificates respond to changing educational requirements by the Early Childhood Industry including agencies that provide early services to infants, toddlers, preschoolers and their families. The courses in these certificates are approved by the Early Childhood Associate Apprenticeship Program (ECAAP) and recommended by Barton's Early Childhood Advisory Board and its Child Development Associate (CDA) sub-committee. The majority of the coursework include common core courses as outlined by EQIP, Early Childhood Quality Instructional Partners across Kansas and Missouri.

#### ***Rationale:***

Increased brain research and awareness of the learning process indicates the ability to learn starts at the prenatal stage and is greatly impacted during the first five years of life due to increased early learning experiences. Agencies providing services to families and children from prenatal through entry into kindergarten are therefore requiring additional education and certification for teachers and staff members who provide these services.

The curriculum proposed in the Preschool Education and Infant and Toddler Education and Care certificates include coursework identified and approved by ECAAP, an apprenticeship program that provides tuition, fees and textbooks for qualified students in the field of Early Childhood who have an industry sponsor. ECAAP also provides the funding for the CDA examination for these students. This nationally recognized certification, the CDA, is now required by all Head Start teachers and teaching assistants and will set the bar for other providers throughout the industry. Becky Drews, Member Services Coordinator, Kansas Head Start Association, states, "Updates to the Federal Head Start Act now require teaching staff to have a Child Development Associate credential, Associate degree in Early Childhood, or Bachelor degree or be enrolled in a program leading to a degree."

The courses in both certificates are part of Barton's Early Childhood Associate Degree and are currently taught as part of the degree program. They are offered on Barton's main campus at Great Bend, at our outreach branch at North Central Kansas Technical College in Hays and offered online via Bartonline.org. Traditional students can earn one of the certifications as part of a stackable certificate, which works with the degree requirements of an associate degree and ultimately results in an industry, recognized credential in Early Childhood. The certificate program is also targeted to non-traditional students who are currently employed and who are required to meet the education and certification standards to maintain employment and increase wages.

**Courses:**

<b>Infant Toddler Education &amp; Care (Birth to 36 Months) REQUIRED COURSES</b>	<b>Preschool Education &amp; Care (Children 3 – 5 years) REQUIRED COURSES</b>
Intro to Early Childhood – 3	Intro to Early Childhood – 3
Child Health, Safety & Nutrition – 3	Preschool Child - 3
Child Abuse & Neglect – 3	Child Health Safety & Nutrition -3
Infant and Toddler Education & Care – 3	Child Abuse & Neglect – 3
Creative Activities II (Birth to 3) -3	Child Care Seminar - 1
Preschool Language & Literacy – 3	Creative Exp for Children (3-5yrs) – 3
Child Care Seminar – 1	Preschool Language & Literacy – 3
<b>ELECTIVES – Select 1 Course</b>	<b>ELECTIVES – Select 1 Course</b>
Early Childhood Curriculum – 3	Early Childhood Curriculum – 3
Preschool Child (Dev. prenatal - 8 years) – 3	Child Care Practicum – 3
Child Care Practicum – 3	Children’s Play & Games – 3
Children’s Play & Games – 3	Early Childhood Program Administration - 3
Early Childhood Program Administration -3	First Aid Emergency Care – 3 *
First Aid/CPR Emergency Care – 3*	

**Conclusion:**

In conclusion, these two industry driven certificates will provide a pathway for students to begin their post-secondary education, at a level that is adaptable to their needs and oriented towards industry standards and requirements. The completion of either certification will give students an educational edge to meet further requirements that agencies and industry have set in place for them to obtain, whether an associate degree or a bachelor’s degree. Early Childhood education, whether at the childcare provider level or the Head Start level of a teacher, is moving towards the right direction to ultimately impact our youngest learners who will be the leaders of tomorrow.

Respectfully Submitted:

Cheryl Couch

Instructor & Coordinator – Early Childhood Education Program