

# Back-to-School Webinar Series

September 24, 2025

## Earn, Learn, Succeed: Building a Career Through Apprenticeship



NC Apprenticeships in Early Childhood

# Reminders

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- This webinar will be recorded and posted on the BBF web site, as well as the slides.
- Please mute your microphones and turn off your cameras unless speaking.
- Type your name, organization, and apprenticeship role in the chat.
- Ask questions in the chat or raise your hand. We will have breaks to answer them.



# Session Overview

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NC Apprenticeships in Early Childhood

- Introduction to Early Childhood Education and Apprenticeship
- Early Childhood and Related Careers
- Your Personal Career Pathway
- Resources

# Why Early Childhood?

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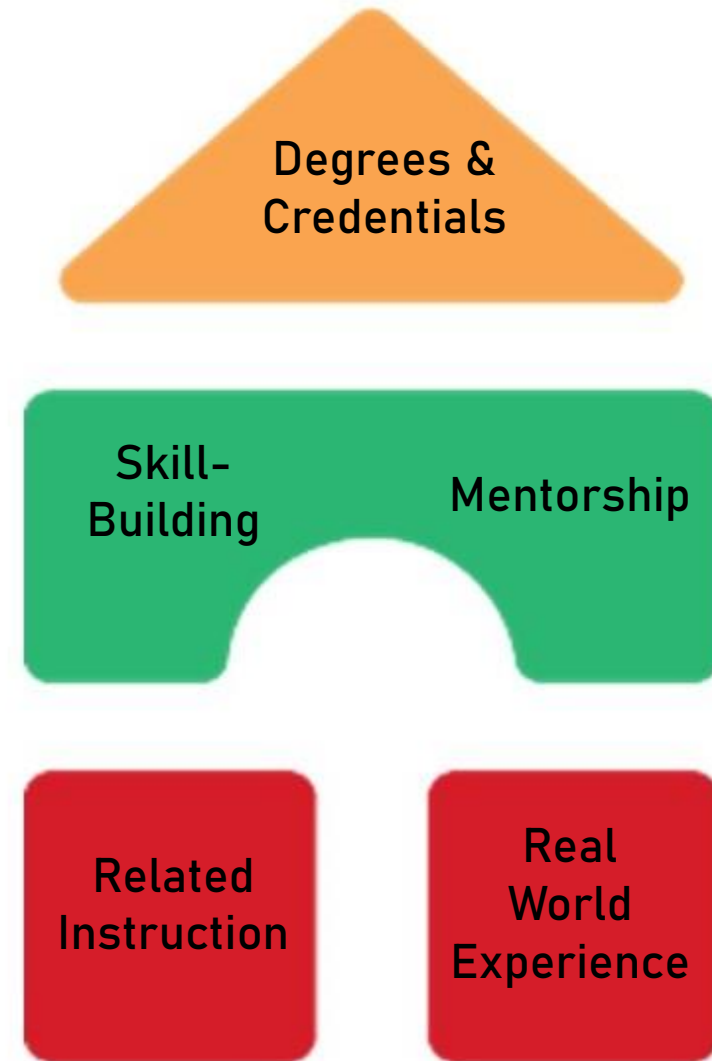
***Why*** are you considering a career in early childhood, or are pursuing one?



# Setting the Foundation

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**Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship** are important building blocks for a meaningful career in early childhood education.



# Building Blocks

- ✓ Training
- ✓ High School and/or Course Credit
- ✓ College
- ✓ Certificate or Degree
- ✓ Industry-Recognized Credentials
- ✓ Apprenticeship Journeyworker Credential

 Office of Apprenticeship  
U.S. Department of Labor

**Work Process Schedule**

**Early Childhood Educator**

**Job Description:** Instruct preschool-aged students, following curricula or lesson plans, in activities designed to promote social, physical, and intellectual growth.

**RAPIDS Code:** 3004CB **O\*NET Code:** 25-2011.00

**Estimated Program Length:** 1 Year

**Apprenticeship Type:** ☒ Competency-Based ☐ Time-Based ☐ Hybrid

**Suggested On-the-Job Learning Outline**

**Teach life skills.**

| Competencies                                                                                                     | Date Completed | Initial |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| A. Teach basic skills, such as color, shape, number and letter recognition, personal hygiene, and social skills. |                |         |
| B. Teach proper eating habits and personal hygiene.                                                              |                |         |

**Provide for basic needs of children.**

| Competencies                                                                                                                                             | Date Completed | Initial |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| A. Serve meals and snacks in accordance with nutritional guidelines.                                                                                     |                |         |
| B. Attend to children's basic needs by feeding them, dressing them, and changing their diapers.                                                          |                |         |
| C. Assimilate arriving children to the school environment by greeting them, helping them remove outerwear, and selecting activities of interest to them. |                |         |



# The Apprenticeship Journey

- Apprenticeship has various entry and exit points.
- Apprenticeship is designed to be “stackable.”
- Apprenticeship is not the end of your career path!



# Careers in Early Childhood

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What are some careers in early childhood  
*within a child care center?*

What are some careers in early childhood  
*outside of a child care center?*

# Careers in Early Childhood

Where can an apprenticeship and your ECE credentials and degrees take you?



**Work directly with children** on a frequent or daily basis

**Help families** provide for their young children

**Work outside of the classroom** in occupations that typically require a minimum of an Associate's Degree



# Working with Children

Careers that involve **working directly with children** on a frequent or daily basis might include:

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Child Care Worker/Aide</li><li>• Teacher's Aide</li><li>• Assistant Teacher</li><li>• Teacher</li><li>• Family Child Care Provider</li><li>• Infant Caregiver</li><li>• Paraprofessional</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Early Intervention Services Provider</li><li>• After-School Care Provider</li><li>• Special Education Teacher</li><li>• Counselor</li><li>• Occupational Therapist</li><li>• Child Life Specialist</li><li>• Nanny</li></ul> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



# Helping Families

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Careers that involve **helping families provide** for their young children:

- |                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Education Specialist</li><li>• Home Visitor</li><li>• Homelessness Liaison</li><li>• Nutrition Services Coordinator</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parent Educator</li><li>• Parent Involvement Coordinator</li><li>• Social Worker</li><li>• Education Director</li></ul> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



# Elizabeth Ocampo

*Records & Enrollment Coordinator, Charlotte Bilingual Preschool*



# Outside of the Classroom

Careers that involve working **outside of the classroom** and generally require an Associate Degree:

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ECE Sales Representative</li><li>• Advocate</li><li>• Early Childhood Librarian</li><li>• Early Childhood Program Administrator</li><li>• Evaluation Specialist</li><li>• Higher Education Professor</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Philanthropist</li><li>• Policy Maker</li><li>• Professional Development Provider</li><li>• Researcher</li><li>• Trainer or Staff Developer</li><li>• Children's Book Author</li></ul> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



Early Childhood  
ADVOCACY NIGHT  
December 14<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 pm



# Additional Career Advancement

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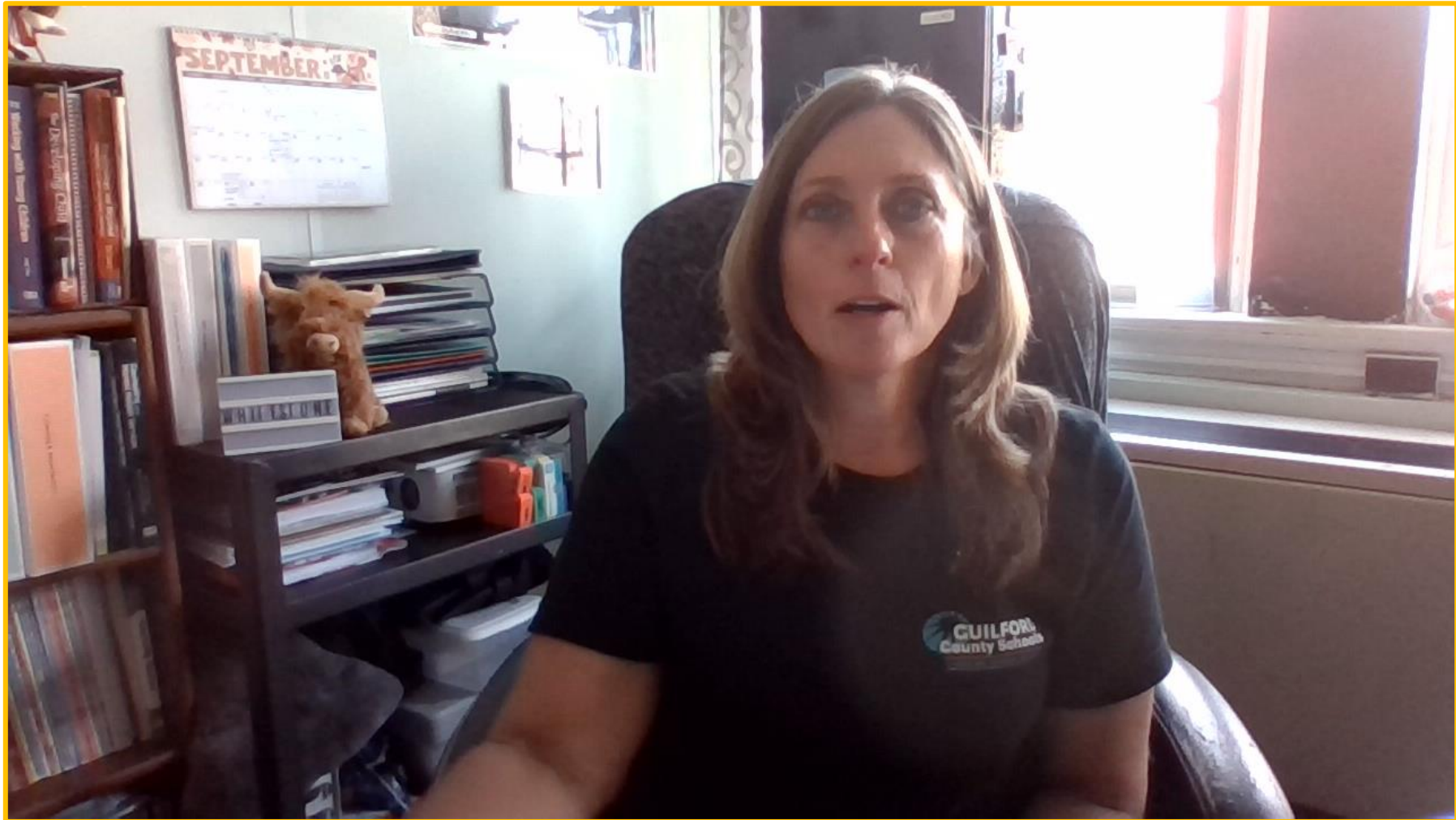
Careers that support early care and education and typically require a Bachelor's Degree:

- Policy
- Research
- Leadership
- Business and Administration
- Non-profit and foundation work
- Teaching (high school or college)
- Educational Design (curriculum, materials)



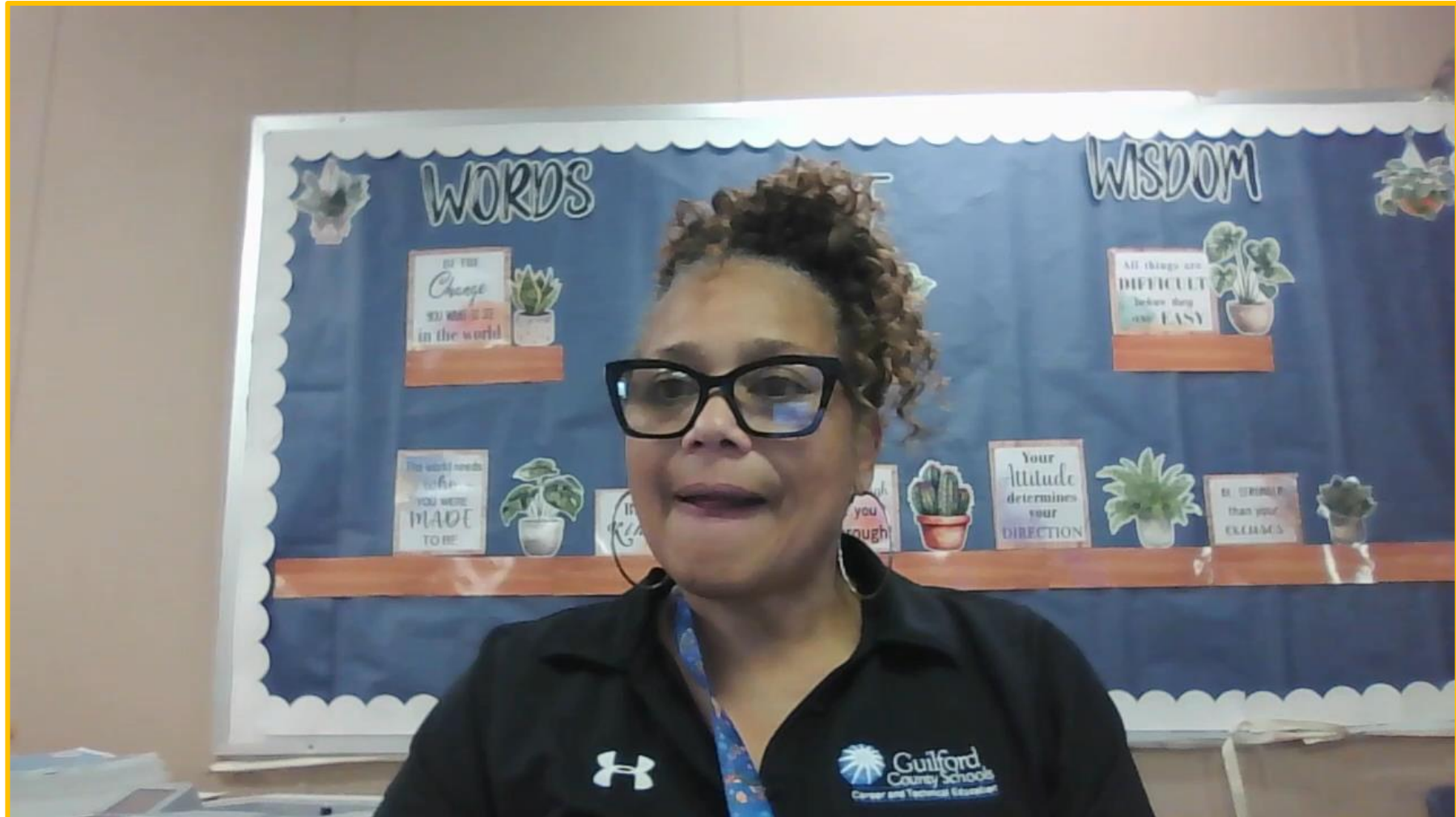
# Lisa Whitestone

*Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher, Guilford County Schools*



# Chelsea Praler

*Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher, Guilford County Schools*

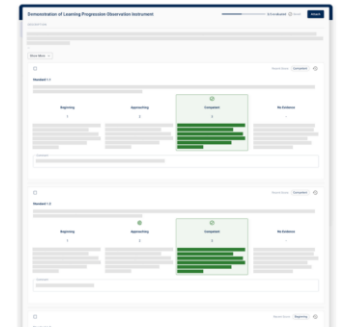


# Related Careers

- Social Work and Behavioral Health
- K-12 Teacher
- Workforce and Economic Development
- Communications



- Get Creative!
  - Playground Design
  - App or Software Development



# Making Your Way to Early Childhood

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What *other jobs or fields* did you work in before deciding on early childhood?



What *off ramps* did you take along the way?

# BBF Demographic Data

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## ***APPRENTICES at Start of Apprenticeship***

### **Age**

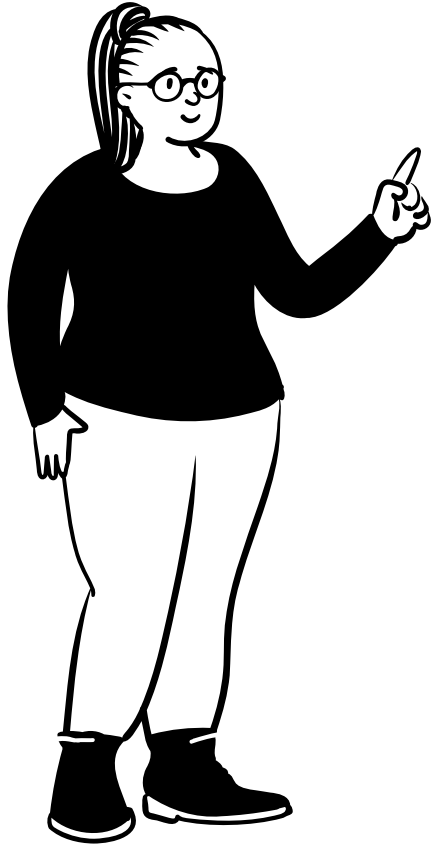
- ✓ 15-20 – 19%
- ✓ 21-30 – 37%
- ✓ 31-40 – 26%
- ✓ 41-50 – 12%
- ✓ 51 and over – 6%

### **Highest Level of Education (including non-ECE Education)**

- ✓ Graduate Degree – 1%
- ✓ Bachelor's Degree – 3%
- ✓ Associate Degree – 6%
- ✓ Community College Diploma – 1%
- ✓ Certificate from Community College – 13%
- ✓ Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential – 11%
- ✓ High School Diploma – 51%
- ✓ Currently in High School – 14%

# Other Things to Consider

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- ✓ Working directly with children or not
- ✓ Schedules
- ✓ Location and transportation
- ✓ Special interests
- ✓ Your personal life – family, flexibility, and support

# Making It Your Own

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You are not limited to what the apprenticeship offers!

- Join associations or other related groups
- Learn online
- Listen to podcasts
- Think about your center's partners: DCDEE, Smart Start, etc.
- Network:
  - Talk to your peers and mentors.
  - Go to events.



# Building Your Career

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# Thank You

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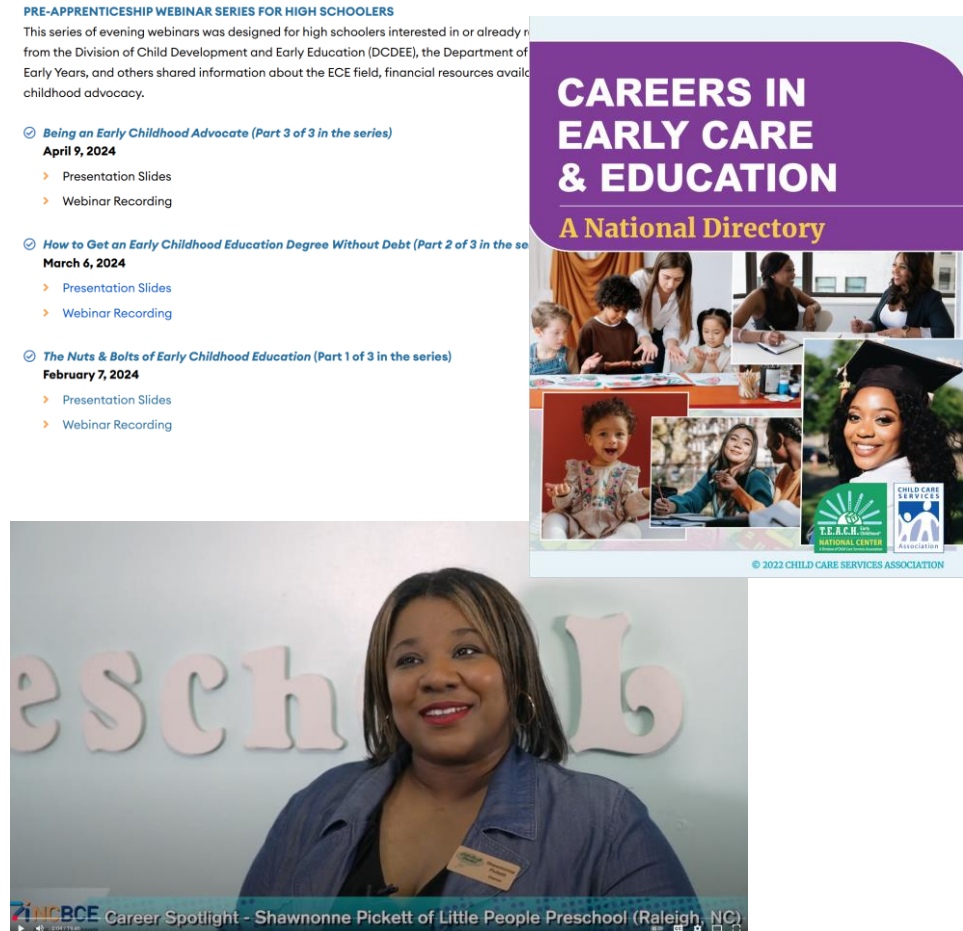
I want to teach my students more than lessons in a book;  
I want to teach them deeper things that people overlook-  
The value of a rose in bloom, its use and beauty, too  
A sense of curiosity to discover what is true;  
How to think and how to choose the right above the wrong,  
How to live and learn each day and grow up to be strong;  
To teach them always how to gain in wisdom and in grace,  
So they will someday make the world a brighter, better place.  
Lord, let me be a friend and guide to give these minds a start  
Upon their way down life's long road, then I'll have done my part.

*Author Unknown*



# Resources

- Building Bright Futures Web Site:
  - Resources section
  - Pre-Apprenticeship Webinar Series (Events page)
  - [Shawnonne Pickett Spotlight](#)
- [Early Years](#) *Careers in Early Care & Education*
- [NCCareers.org](#)
- Sign up for newsletters – important news and opportunities come straight to you!



# Back-to-School Series

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**Apprenticeship 201:  
From Learner to Leader**

**Ready, Set, Learn!  
All About Pre-Apprenticeship**

**Blueprint for Success:  
Apprenticeship Best Practices**

**Earn, Learn, Succeed:  
Building a Career Through Apprenticeship**

