



ONE FOCUS > YOUR SUCCESS

ENJOY A REWARDING,
LIFE-CHANGING
CAREER IN
EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION



ONE FOCUS > YOUR SUCCESS

A SOLID FOUNDATION
FOR WORKING
WITH CHILDREN

The Early Childhood Education Program prepares students for a variety of career and educational possibilities. Aligned with Colorado's core competencies for early childhood professionals, our program is for people who want to make a difference in the lives of today's young learners by providing them positive learning experiences.

INSTRUCTOR PROFILE
Jo Murphy



As a high school student, Jo volunteered in an elementary school classroom with special-needs students. "That cemented my interest," says Jo, who went on to earn her B.A. in Elementary Education, Special Education emphasis. She started her career in elementary, and upon moving to Colorado in 1984, worked at Rivendell School, a preschool-sixth grade

school for special-needs children. When Rivendell closed in 1988, the Early Childhood Education program director at FRCC called Jo and offered her a job. She worked in the Children's Place at the Westminster Campus for four years, and after earning her master's in Early Childhood Special Education, began teaching at FRCC, too. "The variety in my career has taught me so much," says Jo, who has been the ECE program director since 1998. "The most rewarding thing for me is when I hear from directors that my students are putting into practice with infants and toddlers the things I've taught them."

An accredited program

The Early Childhood Education for Transfer program at FRCC is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Only 10 percent of eligible associate degree programs in the U.S. are accredited.

Earn a degree in Early Childhood Education

- A.A.S. Early Childhood Education – A 60-credit, non-transferrable degree that prepares students for careers working with young children from birth through age eight. This program meets all Colorado Department of Human Services licensing requirements.
- A.A. for transfer in Early Childhood Education – A degree for the student who aspires to teach in an early childhood education program or up to third grade in the elementary classroom. Students can transfer to one of several four-year institutions in Colorado as part of the statewide Early Childhood Teacher Education Articulation Agreement.

Earn Early Childhood Education certificates

Whether you're just starting your career or already have years of experience, FRCC is here to support you throughout your career. We offer five certificates:

- Director – 30 credits; guides students toward Director certification by the state of Colorado.
- Early Childhood Teacher – 18 credits; guides students toward Early Childhood Teacher qualification by the state of Colorado.
- Infant-Toddler Nursery Supervisor – 11 credits; meets state of Colorado requirements for Infant-Toddler Nursery Supervisor certification.
- Foundations for Paraeducators – 16 credits.
- Early Childhood Education for Paraeducators – 20 credits.

Annual salaries

| | Entry level | Median | Experienced |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education | \$20,392/year | \$32,355/year | \$38,336/year |

Colorado Department of Labor and Employment
Occupational Employment Statistics Survey (2011)

**EVERY SINGLE DAY
WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

INSTRUCTOR PROFILE

Mernie Rosenberg



Mernie remembers exactly when she decided she wanted to teach future early childhood educators. "I was working at a community school for the gifted and I'd had a lot of success with my students, and one day, my principal said, 'You're affecting 25 lives a year, but you need to teach teachers so you can affect 1,000 lives a year,'" says Mernie. She

went back to school for her M.Ed. at Lesley University and continued on to earn a Ph.D. in Early Childhood Education at Lacrosse University in 2007. In 2008, Mernie began teaching adult learners through Colorado Community Colleges Online. She joined FRCC in 2011. When she's not in the classroom, she's teaching professional development courses to preschool teachers, serving on the board of the All Precious Children Preschool (where she was director), and doing her part to give back to the early childhood education profession. "This is truly my passion and my life's work."



ALUMNA PROFILE

Linda Swedhin, A.A., 2009



Linda has long been a teacher—of her own children, at an English-as-a-Second-Language private school, and in a child-care facility—but for years, she taught without a degree. In 2004, she came to Front Range on the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) Early Childhood Scholarship with a big goal in mind: get her bachelor's degree. Along the way,

Linda gained the skills and director qualifications to land a job as assistant director at the Aspen Center for Child Development in 2007—she's been there ever since. "What I love about my job is that every single day we make a difference," says Linda. "It feels good to see our kids be ready for kindergarten after going through our program." After graduating from FRCC, Linda transferred to the Metropolitan State University of Denver. She completed her B.A. in Human Development, Early Childhood track, in 2012. "Front Range equips people academically. It wasn't scary or difficult to go on to Metro. And now, I've reached my goal—getting my degree."

ALUMNA PROFILE

Ruth Lanciotti, A.A.S., 2013



Ruth is no stranger to teaching children. After raising four of her own and home schooling all of them from preschool through first grade, Ruth then helped start a home-school preschool, which she ran for 13 years. Once her kids were grown, Ruth worked as a teacher assistant at a preschool for five years—and began taking classes at FRCC. "I'm doing this because

I love kids and I enjoy learning," says Ruth, who earned a Group Leader certificate and will complete her A.A.S. in Early Childhood Education in 2013. "For what I want, this degree is exactly perfect." Today, Ruth is a first grade teacher's assistant, and says her degree will help her tremendously. "I'll probably continue to take classes at Front Range after I graduate because the one-on-one you get with instructors is so helpful. I'm a lifelong learner, and I always want to keep improving."



INSTRUCTOR PROFILE

Anne Marie Jacobson



Anne Marie was a newspaper reporter and worked in advertising in Boulder for six years before going back to college at Northern Arizona University (NAU) for her teaching license. She started teaching children from pre-school through third grade in 1998, most recently working as a master teacher in the lab school at Yavapai

College and an adjunct instructor in the Early Childhood Education department. Anne Marie earned a master's degree in Early Childhood Education from NAU in 2011. As a Colorado native, she'd had her eye on FRCC for a long time when the opportunity to join the ECE team arose. She joined FRCC in 2012 and has her sights set on becoming program director of the Larimer Campus ECE program in 2013. "I love preparing future teachers," says Anne Marie. "I'm a big advocate for the field and feel I can have an impact as a teacher of early childhood professionals." Anne Marie says that she couldn't be happier at FRCC. "Our administration really cares about students and is very focused on the things a community college should be focused on."

INSTRUCTOR PROFILE

Alison Thielke



After starting her career working in preschools and Montessori schools in Michigan, Alison moved to Colorado in 1996 and started at Bixby School in Boulder, eventually working her way up to director of the preschool. She came to FRCC to get her director certification in 1998, and went on to Pacific Oaks College to earn a B.A. in Human Development,

Early Childhood Education emphasis, in 2002. Alison earned an M.A. in Educational Psychology from the University of Colorado at Denver in 2007. In 2009, she started teaching in the St. Vrain Valley School District and at FRCC part time. "I am excited to help grow teachers," says Alison, who joined FRCC full time in 2012. "I want to help raise the quality of Boulder County early childhood educators and support them in their professional journeys." Having started her own journey at FRCC, Alison strives to provide a program that benefits all students. "Working with different peers helped me communicate better and build collaborative relationships. That's the beautiful thing about our program—it's about sharing."

GET STARTED!

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