“I’ve always dreamed of pursuing a career involving children, and the A.A.S. degree at SUNY Orange allowed me to achieve that vision. The intensive course requirements not only taught me the necessary skills in order to teach young children, but also encouraged my creativity and provided me with the resources to immediately begin teaching upon graduation.”

Gayle Diana

Why Early Childhood Development and Care?

Current research shows that development in the early years is extremely vital. As a professional who works in an early childhood setting, you’ll have opportunities to guide young learners using positive, appropriate methods. In addition to meaningful courses in our developmentally appropriate “hands-on” learning laboratory, you will be involved in more than 200 hours (60 hours in the certificate program) of day-to-day activities in diverse early learning field environments.

Career opportunities include:

ECDC A.A.S. Degree Program
- Center director or owner
- Head teacher (non-public settings)
- Family child care provider
- Nanny or au pair

ECDC Certificate
entry level or aide positions in:
- preschools
- child care centers
- nursery schools

Why Early Childhood Development and Care at SUNY Orange?

The Education Department faculty is highly qualified and cares deeply about helping you to become an excellent teacher. Our curriculum blends effective instruction with “hands-on” practical experience through field work in local nursery schools, preschools, and centers. Our Hands-on Learning Lab classroom will allow you to learn using developmentally appropriate instructional materials thereby interweaving the theory and practice. Local agencies seek our graduates for their centers. Begin or further your Early Childhood career at SUNY Orange where excellence is affordable.

Top 5 Reasons You Should Study Early Childhood Development and Care at SUNY Orange

- Experienced department faculty members, who have taught in early childhood centers and public schools, will enrich course content with first-hand experience.
- Meaningful, appropriate and quality instruction is paired with observation in the field to bring curriculum to life.
- Developmentally appropriate instructional materials are integrated into classes in our “Hands-on” Learning Laboratory.
- On-campus and online department support and resources enhance your academic experience and help prepare you for professional success.
- Local agencies want our graduates.
**SUNY Orange Education Career Paths**

**Do you wish to teach in the public schools?**

New York State certifies teachers in the categories of birth-grade 2, grades 1-6, and grades 7-12. At SUNY Orange, you can begin your pathway to a public school teaching certification in either our:

- Liberal Arts (Education emphasis) degree program—leading to an associate in arts (A.A.) or associate in science (A.S.) degree—designed to prepare students to obtain a bachelor’s degree at a four-year college or university.

- Jointly Registered Teacher Education Program—also leading to an A.A. or A.S. degree—designed for students who want to transfer to SUNY New Paltz. The JRTEP program may also be appropriate for transfer to other SUNY colleges, but we advise you to check with the individual college to which you may be considering. Students who complete the JRTEP program and are accepted into New Paltz are guaranteed to have all of their SUNY Orange credit accepted for transfer and will thereby enter ready to begin their junior year.

Students in either program may apply to any institution for transfer. Admission to SUNY New Paltz, like many other transfer education schools, is highly competitive. Grade point averages weigh heavily into transfer admissions decisions.

**Do you want to be a Teaching Assistant or Aide in the public schools?**

After completing the SUNY Orange Teaching Assistant Certificate program, you’ll be prepared to provide educational and behavioral assistance in New York State classrooms ranging from preschool through high school. This 25-credit program meets the requirements for permanent New York State Education Department Teaching Assistant Certification. See the NYSED website for additional requirements.

All courses in the Teaching Assistant Certification program can also be applied to liberal arts or JRTEP degree programs if you elect to continue your education following completion of the certificate program.

**Do you wish to begin or further your career in a preschool or early childhood center?**

SUNY Orange’s Early Childhood Development and Care program offers excellent preparation in two forms:

- The Early Childhood Development and Care degree program—resulting in a two-year associate in applied science (A.A.S) degree—blends an array of liberal arts courses with more than 30 credits in early childhood classroom instruction and more than 200 hours of “hands-on” field experience. With this degree you can become a head teacher, director or even open your own center.

- The Early Childhood Development and Care Certificate is a one-year program which focuses on education classes, and includes up to 60 hours of “hands-on” fieldwork in diverse early learning environments. All of the Early Childhood Development and Care Certificate courses can also be applied toward an Early Childhood Development and Care A.A.S. degree if you choose to continue your education following completion of the certificate program.