

Early Childhood Education

Your Careers Advisers

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Skills developed in college

You have developed a range of skills through your education, work experience and personal interests and achievements. Understanding what skills you have to offer and like to use can help you understand what you want in a career, as well as providing key information for job or further study applications.

In terms of securing a job, academic qualifications alone will not guarantee success. Evidence-based skills sections on your CV can demonstrate the broad range of qualities you have to offer employers. Here are some of the main skills you may have developed while in college:

- **Communication skills, both verbal and written**
Expressing ideas effectively and conveying information appropriately and accurately. Influencing others by expressing self effectively in a group and in one to one situations. Showing a range of verbal and nonverbal signals that the information being received is understood.
- **Conflict Resolution and Negotiation skills**
Taking on board other people's feelings and expressing your own requirements in an unemotional clear fashion to achieve a win-win outcome. Discussing and then reaching a mutually satisfactory agreement. This involves control your emotions and behaviour, being aware of and respectful of differences, working together with other people and building trust.
- **Teamwork / Working with Others**
Working effectively and confidently within a group to achieve a common goal or task. Including understanding your role within the team, and listening and supporting other team members.
- **Planning and Organising**
Establishing a course of action for self and/or others to accomplish a specific goal. Planning proper assignments of personnel and appropriate allocation of resources.
- **Problem-solving ability**
Identifying, prioritising and solving problems, individually or in groups; possessing the ability to ask the right questions, sort out the many facets of a problem, and contribute ideas as well as answers regarding the problem.

- **Leadership skills**
Motivating and taking responsibility to lead other people, in order to achieve set goals and objectives.
- **Initiative & self-management**
Identifying opportunities and being proactive in putting forward ideas and potential solutions.
- **Self-disciplined and self-motivated**
Pursuing studies and continuous professional practice.
- **Making decisions and taking action**
Ability to make quick decisions. Maintaining performance under pressure and / or opposition

You may also have developed a wide range of technical / specific course related skills throughout your education (academic & extra-curricular), work experience and personal interests and activities, including:

- Knowledge and understanding of child development to facilitate planning, implementing and evaluating of developmentally appropriate programmes for babies and children
- Ensuring the safety of children and adults in an early years' environment. Maintaining a safe, clean and appealing learning environment, etc.
- Liaising and maintaining relationships in the wider environment including other professionals, management committees, local community and voluntary organisations and statutory bodies
- Planning for and resourcing flexible ECE services for children and families
- Working in partnership with families
- Implementing and evaluating quality assurance programmes

Types of employers/industry sectors

Some of the main types of employers / industry sectors in which Early Childhood Education graduates work include:

- Pre-schools
- Early Start Classrooms
- After school service
- Crèches
- Day nurseries
- Early start classrooms
- Special education services
- Community services
- Family centres in the state, private, voluntary and community sectors
- Education – teaching, school completion
- Counselling
- Research
- Policy development
- Social care
- Project development

For sector information see:

www.gradireland.com

www.careersportal.ie

www.prospects.ac.uk

www.targetjobs.co.uk

Career options with your course

Some of main occupations related to your degree include:

- Childcare Management
- Play specialist/therapist
- Child support worker
- Working with children who have additional needs
- Child care supervisor - Housing Association
- Course co-ordinator – FETAC childcare course
- Development officer e.g County Childcare Committee
- School completion officer
- Primary Teacher
- Youth and community work
- Counsellor
- Research
- Policy development
- Social care

For occupational information see

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Employers who have recruited in your area

Some of the companies who have recruited Early Childhood Education graduates include:

- Health Service Executive - Early years services
- Early years services funded by voluntary organizations E.g Barnardos, Focus Ireland, St. John of God
- Early years services in hospitals, drug treatment centres
- Early Start pre-schools in primary schools
- Special needs services e.g. Enable Ireland
- Childcare Centres VEC's
- County Childcare Committees
- Voluntary organisations
- Private crèches
- Workplace crèches

Job Hunting

It is important that you access both the advertised and hidden jobs market and use any and every means available to you to job hunt effectively.

Advertised Jobs

Most University and IT Careers Services have jobs listings on their websites:

www.tudublin.ie/jobscene

Graduate programmes and immediate vacancies

www.prospects.ac.uk & www.targetjobs.co.uk

Graduate jobs UK

www.gradireland.com

Immediate jobs/Summer/Graduate programmes

www.mondotimes.com

Local and national press

www.publicjobs.ie

www.localgovernmentjobs.ie

Public service

www.irishjobs.ie/agencies

Complete list of recruitment agencies/online recruitment sites

Company Websites - Immediate vacancies and Internships

www.indeed.ie – Ireland (various job boards)
[irishjobfairy](https://twitter.com/irishjobfairy) (twitter)

Links to some of the most relevant job-hunting websites for your course:

- www.activelink.ie – Not for profit organisations vacancies
- www.childcare-recruitment.com - Dublin Childcare Recruitment Agency -
- www.mychildcare.ie – National Childcare Directory - City and County Childcare Committees - lists Full Daycare, Pre-School, Out of School, Child-minding, Drop-In Parent & Toddler, Montessori, Naionra, ECCE, CCS, CETS.
- www.childcarefinder.ie/jobs Dublin Childcare Recruitment Agency
- www.earlychildhoodireland.ie/jobs
- www.rollercoaster.ie – useful website for parents– job advertisements within discussion boards
- www.careerjet.ie
- www.indeed.ie
- www.jobs-ireland.ie

Other

- Careers fairs – Gradireland Fair – Autumn and Summer Fair, plus many others.
- Notice boards/Student email account/Lecturers
- Company Presentations
- Specialist Magazines

Voluntary Sector/Charities

www.activelink.ie

Voluntary Sector/Charity/NGO vacancies in voluntary sector

www.volunteeringireland.com

www.dochas.ie

Association of non-governmental development organisations

www.comhlamh.org

Volunteering opportunities

www.wheel.ie/directory

Directory of voluntary and community organisations

Unadvertised Jobs

NETWORKING

- Job Shadow/Informational Interviewing/work experience
- Networking – who is in your network?
- Professional Bodies,
- Social networking sites (facebook, twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Fashion Blogs, discussion boards)
- Attend events,
- Businessandleadership.com (events)
- Get in touch with guest speakers
- Thesis / College projects/Placement/Site visits/guest speakers
- TU Dublin Societies
- First Destination Reports
- Join Alumni Association/Linked-in TU Dublin Alumni group

CONTACT COMPANIES DIRECTLY

- Speculative applications + cold calling. Think about your offering
- Contact organisation with ideas
- Utilise directories – Kompass.com, IDA, professional bodies, Golden Pages

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Freelancing/Work experience/Self-employment/Start-Up <http://www.dit.ie/careers/studentsgraduates/interestedinselfemployment/>
- TU Dublin Hothouse - www.dit.ie/hothouse/
- Local Enterprise Office - www.localenterprise.ie
- The Digital Hub - www.thedigitalhub.com

TRACK COMPANIES

- Check out Labour Market trends, ilo.org (Intl Labour Organisation, www.careersportal.ie, IDA, IBEC
- Search newspaper business pages on-line to get success stories on businesses as they are growing – TU Dublin Careers website (labour market news)
- Industry award recipients
- Best Workplaces in Ireland (download on gradireland.com)
- Follow target companies on facebook, linked-in, twitter
- Think of small companies not just big brands

OTHER PROACTIVE IDEAS

- Social networking sites (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Blog, Discussion Groups) Linked-In (set up a profile, link to others, search for companies - employees who have Linked-in profiles, advertised jobs)

- Follow target companies on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter
- Think of small companies not just big brands
- Consider alternative roles
- Undertake voluntary work

For more information on how to go about finding a job and job-hunting sites, [See www.tudublin.ie/careers](http://www.tudublin.ie/careers)

Interviews

For more information on how to perform in interviews, [See www.tudublin.ie/careers](http://www.tudublin.ie/careers)

CVs/Cover letters and applications

For information on how to put together a great CV/Cover Letter or Application, [See www.tudublin.ie/careers](http://www.tudublin.ie/careers)

Useful links (e.g. Company Databases, Professional Bodies, LinkedIn Groups)

This list contains links to some of the most useful websites for your course including professional bodies and associations, employer directories, information sources and LinkedIn groups.

General websites — useful links

- www.dcy.gov.ie - Dept of Children & Youth Affairs
- www.childfinder.ie – National Childcare Directory - City and County Childcare Committees - lists full Daycare, Pre-School, Out of School, Child-minding, Drop-In Parent & Toddler, Montessori, Naionra, ECCE, CCS, CETS.
- www.barnardos.ie
- www.childminding.ie - National Body for Childminders
- www.earlychildhoodireland.ie - Membership organisation including professionals, providers, parents, individuals, organisations and trainers working in the EEC and education sector
- www.naionra.ie - Supports the promotion of education and care services in Irish for children
- www.childrensdatabase.ie access to research and information on children for policy makers, government departments, academics, voluntary organisations and the general public
- www.omepireland.ie - World organisation for early childhood education
- www.southdublinchildcare.ie – links to national childcare directories & resources. Each of the 33 childcare committees has a website similar to this
- <http://www.onefamily.ie> – (formerly Cherish)
- www.rollercoaster.ie – Database and information for parents
- <http://www.early-education.org.uk/> UK PROFESSIONAL ASSOC

Some specific area based childhood related websites

- www.twcdi.ie – childhood development initiative (Tallaght west)
- www.preparingforlife.ie – North Dublin Communities early intervention/prevention programme
- www.youngballymun.org

Some useful LinkedIn Groups:

- National association of childcare professionals
- Early childhood education
- Early childhood consultants
- Childcare owners
- Early years professionals
- Child development news

Careers open to all disciplines (Including 'Paths Into...' Series)

Many graduate vacancies don't require specific degree subjects as possession of a degree is taken as evidence of intellectual ability. What is more important to the potential employer is the range of transferable skills and experience you can demonstrate.

Many graduate training programmes take final year students from a wide range of disciplines, register with the [Career Development Centre's Jobsence](#) for a full list of programmes. Here is a range of career areas that are potentially open to graduates of all disciplines. It's important to note that some of these options may require further study either on the job or beforehand.

If you are considering diversifying or changing career direction a postgraduate conversion course may be a viable option.

Some examples of career areas open to students of all disciplines:

- Teaching & Education
- Financial Services & Accounting
- Marketing, Advertising and PR
- Retail, Sales and Customer Service
- Banking, insurance and financial services
- Charities and voluntary sector
- Fund management / administration and investment banking
- Human resources, recruitment and training
- Management consulting
- Management, business and administration
- Media and publishing
- Public sector and civil service
- Social, community and youth

For further information see: www.gradireland.com/career-sectors

Further Study

Are you considering further study or training? See www.tudublin.ie/careers for comprehensive information

Here are some examples of postgraduate courses pursued by Early Childhood Education Graduates :

- PG Certificate in Therapeutic Play Skills – Academy of Play and Child Psychotherapy (APAC)
- Diploma in Addiction Studies - NUI Maynooth
- Graduate Diploma in Education (Primary Teaching) -DCU
- Post Graduate Teacher Training in the UK -Cardiff, Dundee, Manchester Met. Aberdeen etc.
- Masters in Child, Family and Community Studies - TU Dublin
- Masters in Social Work – Trinity College Dublin

Conversion courses

Some graduates find that their primary degree did not meet their expectations, either vocationally, academically or personally, and seek change career direction. Conversion courses offer the opportunity to diversify into another chosen career area while meeting the necessary entry requirements for that discipline. However, it should be noted that this is not the case for all disciplines e.g. disciplines such as science and engineering will require an undergraduate degree in that discipline.

Self Employment

Ever thought of being your own boss? Think you have an innovative product or service idea that could have commercial value? Want to commercialise your research? See www.tudublin.ie/careers

Other Options (e.g. Time out, travel etc.)

Volunteering and working with communities with is a great way to gain valuable real world experience, to develop new skills, to meet new people, to do something worthwhile and to improve your employability. For more details, see www.tudublin.ie/careers.

Labour Market Information

For information on the latest labour market trends see www.tudublin.ie/careers.

Additional Information / Advice

For any query you might have, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.