

Preschool Teachers

SOC: 25-2011 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

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| \$37,120 Median Salary | 555,100 Employment | +4.0% Growth Rate |
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■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Associate's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 10.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.
This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■ Work-Life Balance

7.0/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

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|---------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|
| Realistic | 3.8/10 | Investigative | 6.6/10 |
| Artistic | 7.6/10 | Social | 9.4/10 |
| Enterprising | 5.2/10 | Conventional | 6.0/10 |

■ Top Skills Required

Communication skills, Creativity, Interpersonal skills, Organizational skills, Patience, Physical stamina

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Preschool Teachers educate and care for young children **typically ages 3 to 5, preparing them for elementary school**. They create lesson plans, facilitate activities, and support social, emotional, and cognitive development. Their work is critical in early childhood education and laying the foundation for lifelong learning.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy teaching, nurturing, and guiding young children.

What Do Preschool Teachers Do?

These professionals design and implement educational activities, monitor children's development, and foster a safe, stimulating environment.

Common responsibilities include:

- Developing lesson plans that promote learning through play and structured activities
- Teaching basic concepts such as numbers, letters, colors, and social skills
- Observing and assessing children's developmental progress
- Encouraging creativity, problem-solving, and cooperative play
- Communicating with parents about children's growth and needs
- Maintaining a safe and clean classroom environment
- Collaborating with colleagues and administrators to support educational goals

Key Areas of Early Childhood Education

Preschool teachers may focus on specific developmental areas, instructional methods, or classroom activities:

- Cognitive Development: Teaching early math, literacy, and problem-solving skills
- Social and Emotional Development: Supporting interactions, empathy, and emotional regulation
- Creative and Physical Activities: Encouraging art, music, movement, and hands-on learning
- Classroom Management and Safety: Maintaining a structured and secure environment
- Parent Communication and Support: Informing families about progress and developmental milestones

Skills and Abilities Needed

Preschool teachers combine educational, interpersonal, and organizational skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires formal education and practical experience:

- High School Diploma or GED (minimum): Basic educational skills
- Postsecondary Training or Associate/Bachelor's Degree: Early childhood education or related field
- Teacher Preparation Programs or Practicum: Hands-on experience in classrooms
- State Certification or Licensing (if required): Compliance with local regulations
- Continuing Education: Staying current with educational strategies, child development research, and safety standards

Where Do Preschool Teachers Work?

They are employed in educational and childcare settings:

- Preschools and Early Childhood Centers
- Daycare and Childcare Facilities
- Public and Private Schools
- Community and Nonprofit Educational Programs

- Home-Based or Specialized Early Learning Programs

Work environments include classrooms, play areas, and outdoor learning spaces.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires patience, creativity, and energy. Preschool teachers must engage young learners, manage classroom behavior, and foster development in diverse groups of children.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy working with young children and fostering growth
- Are patient, creative, and enthusiastic
- Have strong communication and organizational skills
- Can manage multiple activities and maintain classroom order
- Want a career laying the foundation for lifelong learning

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in early childhood education, child development, or psychology
- Volunteer or intern in preschools, daycare centers, or educational programs
- Develop creativity, communication, and classroom management skills
- Explore accredited early childhood education programs
- Gain hands-on experience through supervised teaching or caregiving

Preschool teachers guide children's early learning and development, fostering curiosity, social skills, and foundational knowledge to prepare them for future education.

*Generated by StartRight • Data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics & O*NET*

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/education-training-and-library/preschool-teachers.htm>