There is much to tell you about the Child Development Program at Wallace State. I will share some of the important things to know about the program.

Child Development is a very rewarding career so I am delighted you are interested in the Child Development program at Wallace State Community College (WSCC). Children are the future! Teachers of the young have opportunities to nurture future generations making a positive impact in the world. Graduates generally work in child care centers, Head Start and Early Head Start centers, or assist in Alabama’s First Class Pre-K programs. The field is rapidly expanding and jobs are available.

**Course Format**

All of the Child Development (CHD) courses are now offered in an ONLINE format. There are no class meetings required on campus for any classes. All assignments are completed and submitted through Blackboard.

**Program Admission**

CHD 215 is the Supervised Practical Experience in Child Development course that should be taken during your last spring semester at Wallace State. It is the only class that requires that students be admitted into the Child Development program before registering for it. Students should apply to the CHD program at least one semester prior to registering for CHD 215. CHD 215 requires time in the field with young children at an approved site but the coursework is completed online. **Students can enroll in all other CHD courses without first being admitted into the program.**

**Program Options**

WSCC offers three options for Child Development. Students may earn a Short Certificate in two semesters, Associate in Applied Science Degree in five semesters or complete three classes toward a CDA Credential. Graduates may be employed in a variety of settings in early childhood (age birth to age 5) such teachers in daycares, Head Start, Early Head Start, or as teacher assistants in Pre-K or kindergarten in the public school system.

The **Child Development Certificate** program offers the student background knowledge of all stages of child growth and development; training and practical
experience in conducting all types of learning activities with children; knowledge and application of techniques in positive guidance and discipline, health, safety, and first aid practices, and a basic knowledge of the state minimum standards for daycare centers and homes.

The **Child Development Associate in Applied Science Degree** program is designed to prepare students for employment in preschool programs. Graduates may be employed as teacher assistants in public kindergartens, as teachers or directors in private and preschool programs, and as teachers or assistants in Head Start. Classes in this program are designed to meet the Alabama state minimum standard qualifications for a director, program director, and teacher in a licensed child care center. If you are interested in transferring to a 4 year institution, please check with the STARS guide for the latest transfer information.

The **CDA Credential** is awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition. Wallace State provides the 120 hours of professional education portion of the requirements through the completion of three CHD courses as listed in the catalog. These three classes can then be applied toward earning a Short Certificate or Associate in Applied Science if desired. For more information about the other required components of the credential and related fees visit [http://www.cdacouncil.org/](http://www.cdacouncil.org/).

**Important Considerations**

Students admitted into the Child Development program are expected to comply with the Health Science Program Regulations and Expectations as published in the Academic and Student Regulations section of the Wallace State College Catalog. Admission to the Child Development program shall be conditional depending upon the student's ability to pass an initial drug screen and background check as stated in the catalog.

Prior to taking courses, students are advised to meet with the program director to develop a comprehensive plan for satisfying program requirements in a timely manner. **Most CHD courses are only offered once per year so it is recommended that students plan ahead to take the courses that are needed.**
About the program

Mixing both CHD courses and basic general courses is most desired. **Students do not need to have completed all their basic courses before applying to the program.**

Contact Dr. Marcie Hill for more program information at (256) 352-8383 or email at marcie.hill@wallacestate.edu.