

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 and teachers of the young have opportunities to nurture future generations making a positive impact in the world. Welcome aboard!

WSCC offers several options for Child Development. Students may earn:

- **Short Certificate in just one semester (9 hours in fall, spring, or summer),**
- **Certificate (38 hours)**
- **Associate in Applied Science Degree (61-63 hours) or**
- **the education component for the CDA Credential in one semester (fall or summer).**

Students interested may also take courses to fulfill the Department of Human Resources annual training requirements. Child Development courses at WSCC meet the training requirements of the Department of Human Resources (DHR) Minimum Standards for the six topic areas: (a) child development; (b) health, safety and universal precautions; (c) quality child care and licensing; (d) the child care professional and the family; (e) language development; (f) positive discipline and guidance.

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.

Wallace State has 4 different short term certificates you can earn. You can earn a short term certificate in only one semester!

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/>.

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 provisional depending upon the student's ability to pass a background check as stated in the catalog. Once you are admitted into the program, you must submit the following documentation:

- background check
- copy of CPR certification card
- signatures on program policies pages from handbook
- clinical badge

Most CHD courses require observations and participation in early childhood settings. Students are required to participate in observations and field experiences to complete activities and assignments with children for coursework. Students are expected to be able to fulfill these assignments at the students' expense and should plan accordingly. **Students cannot begin field observations until copies of the background check, CPR certification and clinical badge are verified with the program director.**

Course Offerings

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.* 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. Students are advised to meet with your advisor regularly to ensure the program is completed in a timely fashion.

Course Format

Child Development courses are now in an online format which utilize Blackboard for communication, information and submission of assignments. The online courses are paced and

weekly assignments are given; therefore, students need regular access to a computer and the Internet. CHD students should also have the necessary skills to complete coursework utilizing word processing and accessing Internet files or websites. There are many resources available for students who need help with these skills. The online format offer students the convenience of completing most coursework at home when time is available. Most CHD students find the online format to be the most desired format for their classes to match their busy lifestyle and enable them to complete their degree.

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Marcie Robinson

Child Development Program Director

(256) 352-8383

marcie.robinson@wallacestate.edu