



Steps to Success

Administered by
Early Childhood Development
ASSOCIATION OF PEI



Your first steps towards a rewarding career as an Early Childhood Educator

Empowering Individuals Toward Certification & Employment

Program at a Glance

- Full time work placements in licensed child care centres on PEI - including a daily stipend
- Post secondary education through Holland College - cost covered by Steps to Success
- Guidance and support from certified Early Childhood Educators
- Support from a Steps to Success Mentor

Who can apply?

- Passionate about working with children
- Unemployed or underemployed individual seeking stable employment
- Adult (18+) with Canadian citizenship or Permanent Residency
- No prior Early Childhood Education certification through the Province of PEI

Why Join Steps to Success?

Professional Certification

Complete your post-secondary coursework with 100% covered tuition and graduate with your Early Childhood Intern Certification.

A Supportive Community

Learn alongside a passionate, like-minded cohort of peers and receive dedicated mentorship every step of the way.

A Future-Proof Career

Step directly into a high-demand field, opening doors to a career in over 100 island child care centres, and long-term career growth on PEI.

“The support from the instructors, placement sta , and the Steps to Success team made the experience enjoyable and helped me feel more confident working in the Early Childhood field”

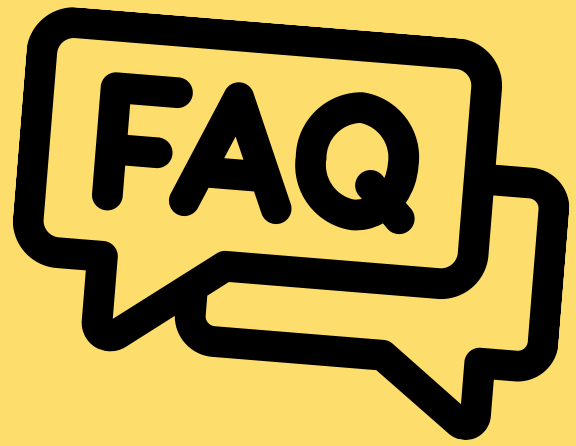
Take Your First Step, Contact Megan!

(902) 368 1017
projects@ecdaopei.ca



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PARTICIPANT OVERVIEW

Empowering Individuals Toward Certification & Employment

What are the dates of the program?

There are two 20-week cohorts during the 2025-2026 academic year.

Cohort 1 begins September 14, 2026

Cohort 2 begins January 18, 2027

Do I receive a wage during this program?

If you are eligible for EI benefits, you will receive those benefits first. If not, you will receive a biweekly training stipend through Skills PEI for the duration of your program.

What hours will I be expected to work?

Under the Steps to Success project, you will be expected to work 40 hours per week.

Scheduling is determined by the host centre, during the child care centre's typical operating hours of Monday to Friday, 7:00 am to 5:30 pm*.

*Centre operating hours may vary.

What will I be doing while working in a centre?

You will be full-time employees during your work placement and directors/supervisors will provide expectations and responsibilities for you. These responsibilities may include: actively supervising children ages 1-5 years, planning activities, diapering and toileting routines, cleaning, interacting with children, families, and coworkers and more.

*centre expectations and responsibilities may vary.

Is prior experience working with children required for eligibility?

No, experience with children is not required. We do encourage some experience whether it be through volunteering, caring for friends or family members, or coaching young children.

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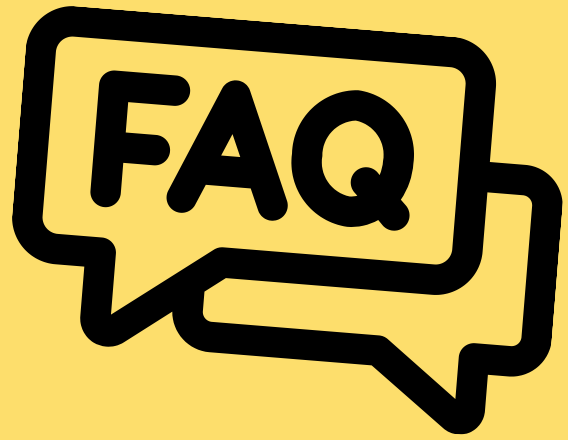
The Department of Workforce and
Advanced Learning
through the Canada-PEI Labour
Market Agreements.

**APPLY
TODAY!**



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How long do I need to be out of employment to be eligible?

There is no set time frame. At the time of application, you must be unemployed or in a casual/short-term role, with no plans to return to post-secondary studies or start full-time work at a child care centre.

Am I eligible for the program if I have completed 1-2 Early Childhood Education course(s) with Holland College?

Yes. You are eligible as long as you have not completed all three courses required for the Early Childhood Intern certification. If you have completed one or two courses you can qualify for this program.

What happens if I miss a lot of work days during my work placement?

You are only allowed to be absent 5 days throughout your work placement. You are expected to follow centre protocols when reporting or requesting an absence.

What happens if I, as a participant, experience compatibility issues with my host centre? What options are available to the host centre in that situation?

Once you begin working at a centre, you become an employee of that centre and are expected to follow the same expectations as all other staff members.

The host centre has the right to end your work placement if there are ongoing performance issues, even after support has been provided. This support may include feedback, mentoring, training, or a performance improvement plan.

If your work placement is ended, the ECDA will decide the next steps for you in the program.

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