

Occupational Profile
Child Care Workers
OES (Occupational Employment Statistics) CODE: 68038

Cameron County		Hidalgo/Starr/Willacy Counties	
Employment 2000	Projected Employment 2010	Employment 2000	Projected Employment 2010
1,290	1,660	1,960	2,490
Absolute Change		Absolute Change	
#	%	#	%
370	28.7	530	27
Is License Required?	Growth to Replacement	Is License Required?	Growth to Replacement
No	1:1.3	No	1:1.1
Hourly Wage 2002		Hourly Wage 2002	
Mean	Median	Mean	Median
\$6.46	\$6.45	\$6.42	\$6.42

Job Description:

Preschool teachers and child-care workers nurture and teach preschool children—age 5 or younger—in child-care centers, nursery schools, preschools, public schools, and family child-care homes. These workers play an important role in a child’s development by caring for the child when parents are at work or away for other reasons. Some parents enroll their children in nursery schools or child-care centers primarily to provide them with the opportunity to interact with other children. In addition to attending to children’s basic needs, these workers organize activities that stimulate the children’s physical, emotional, intellectual, and social growth.

Average Education Required

These occupations may require a high school diploma or GED certificate. Some may require a formal training course to obtain a license.

Related Occupations

Child-care work requires patience; creativity; an ability to nurture, motivate, teach, and influence children; and leadership, organizational, and administrative skills. Others who work with children and need these aptitudes include teacher assistants, children’s tutors, kindergarten and elementary school teachers, early childhood program directors, and child psychologists.

Industrial Employment Patterns		
Industry Code	Industry	Percent of Employees
8350	Child Day Care Services	56.8%
8820	Self-employed & Unpaid Family Workers	32.5%
8640	Civic & Social Associations	3.2%

Skills Required

- Speaking -- Talking to others to effectively convey information
- Social Perceptiveness -- Being aware of others reactions and understanding why they react the way they do
- Service Orientation -- Actively looking for ways to help people
- Active Listening -- Listening to what other people are saying and asking questions as appropriate
- Instructing -- Teaching others how to do something
- Monitoring -- Assessing how well one is doing when learning or doing something
- Learning Strategies -- Using multiple approaches when learning or teaching new things
- Problem Identification -- Identifying the nature of problems