With a shortage of qualified Early Childhood (EC) educators across Alaska and the nation, UAA's programs meet the needs of high demand careers. The OEC is an easy entry to the university where students earn a workforce development certificate in infant and toddler development with only 18 credits. These credits lead into the AAS in Early Childhood Development (birth-age 8). The AAS then leads into the BA in Early Childhood Education as a 2 + 2 model. Both the OEC and the AAS qualify graduates for positions in child-care and other early education organizations. A BA with teacher licensure provides graduates with even more opportunities, including teaching in public schools PreK-3rd grades and other leadership roles in the field of early care and learning.

The Early Childhood programs are meeting needs of today's workforce while using innovative teaching strategies for tomorrow.

**Highlights of Early Childhood Programs:**

- **Pathways** – OEC > AAS > BA - Creates *multiple career pathways* for graduates to include positions in public schools, Early Head Start/Head Start Programs, military approved child-care facilities, tribally approved child-care systems, and early intervention programs such as Parents, Infants, and Children, the Infant Learning Program (ILP), and Rural CAP.
- **Accreditation:** The AAS is nationally accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) through spring 2025. The BA will seek accreditation through both NAEYC and CAEP.
- **Licensure** – UAA's program will be the only Pre-K through 3rd grade initial licensure option in the State of Alaska.
- **Employment** - 100% of graduates who sought employment in the Early Childhood field have been hired (past 7 years).
- **Early Literacy focus** – All of UAA EC programs have a strong emphasis in language and literacy development. The content is scaffolded with emphasis on development, foundations, theory, strategies, implementation, and assessment.
- **Field Experience** – All three programs emphasize real world practice with opportunities in childcare settings, public school settings, and community agencies including Head Start. Students who complete all three programs will have nearly 1000 hours of field experience.
- **Delivery** - EC faculty have a strong commitment to serving the educational needs of our diverse student population with both *face-to-face and distance/hybrid* course options.
- **Diversity and Inclusion** – We take pride in our student population. In AY 2019-2020 the EC program was 57% non-white reflecting the larger Alaskan population.
- **Innovation and Learning** – Meeting needs for Alaska through Creativity, Communication, Collaboration, and Critical Thinking (21st Century Learning and Innovation 4C skills).
Early Childhood Pathways

Certificate (OEC) in Infant and Toddler Development (18 Credits)

- EDEC A105 Introduction to the Field of Early Childhood Education
- EDEC A106 Creativity and the Arts for Young Children
- EDEC A241 Infant and Toddler Development

Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Early Childhood Development (60 Credits)

- EDEC A206 Integrated Curriculum
- EDEC A210 Guiding Young Children
  * Communication GER
  * Writing GER (100-Level)
*Writing GER (200-Level)

Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Early Childhood Education (120 Credits)

- MATH A211 Math for Elementary Teachers I
- MATH A212 Math for Elementary Teachers II
*EDFN A300 Foundations of Education
- EDEC A320 Foundations of Literacy and Language
- EDEC A321 Reading, Language and Culture
- EDEC A407 Action Research: Using Observation and Documentation
- EDEC A408 Children’s Literature: The Early Childhood Years

- EDEC A303 Inclusive Practices for Young Children
- EDEC A292 Seminar
- EDEC A295 Final Practicum
*Quantitative GER (for BA - MATH A121 or higher or STAT A200)
12 credits of electives
(for BA - Science GER, Fine Arts GER, ANTH A200 & HIST A132 are recommended)

To learn more, go to our website, https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/school-of-education/programs/early-childhood-education.cshtml or contact Dr. Hilary Seitz at hjseitz@alaska.edu

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Language & Reading Emphasis

Language & Literacy Development

- EDEC A105: Introduction to Early Childhood
- EDEC A107: Child Development and Learning
- EDEC A241: Infant and Toddler Development
- EDEC A242: Culturally Responsive Family Engagement

Communication & Language Acquisition
- Literacy Development
- Pre-literacy Skills
- Familiarity & Cultural Influences

Language & Literacy Foundations

- EDEC A320: Literacy Foundations
- EDEC A321: Reading, Language & Culture

- 5 components of reading
- Evidence-based theories & strategies
- Science of Reading
- Dual/Multi-Language Acquisition (ELL)

Language & Literacy Strategies & Implementation

- EDEC A404: Literacy Methods for Young Children
- EDEC A407: Observation, Documentation and Assessment
- EDEC A408: Literature for Young Children
- EDEC A492Y: Early Childhood Seminar (Literacy and STEM methods)
- EDEC A495Y: Early Childhood Seminar

Culturally responsive lesson planning
Reflective teaching including science of reading
Continuous improvement of reading cycle

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Figure 1: EC Pathways

Figure 2: Language & Reading Emphasis