

**The Illinois School for the Deaf  
Child Care Provider Program of Study  
June 27, 2017**

Introduction

Career Pathways in Child Care Provider at the secondary level at the Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD) provide preparation for a variety of occupations and assist students with developing skills as family and community members. The targeted occupations require product knowledge and skills and technology expertise that takes into consideration specialized technology and assistive devices for individuals with hearing loss in addition to excellent human relation skills. The Child Care Provider program covers occupations in a wide array of areas, including: childcare worker, daycare assistant/worker, and childcare aide.

ISD's programs in Child Care Provider prepare students for employment in entry level occupations and further career preparation at the postsecondary level. Some students may choose to enter a career right out of high school whereas others may decide to further their education before entering a career. The Child Care Provider program prepares students for lifelong learning. The tasks, skills and standards identified by business and industry as necessary for success in these occupations are used as the basis for the instructional program development. To assist students in achieving success in their chosen careers, the ISD Child Care Provider program emphasizes the development of skills and knowledge that are transferable to a variety of settings. Additionally, students acquire the competencies and strategies necessary to improve the quality of life in their homes, communities and workplaces and to prepare them to become self-supporting citizens.

The following job outlook for occupations in Child Care Provider was summarized from information provided by the Occupational Outlook Handbook. This information was updated in 2015. Jobs as a childcare worker are projected to increase by 5% from 2014-2024 which is as fast as the average for all occupations. These occupations can require no formal education or previous work experience but many positions require additional certifications and/or training. Childcare workers care for children in various settings such as childcare centers, their own home, or homes of the children in their care. Job opportunities for childcare workers are expected to be favorable.

ISD developed its Child Care Provider program from statewide labor market information (LMI). Occupations with related skills have been grouped together to develop instructional programs which provide students with a wide range of opportunities for entry-level employment, career advancement and further education. As new occupations emerge and employment needs are demonstrated, additional programs will be developed. The ISD Child Care Provider program includes the following areas:

- Child Development and Parenting
- Care and Learning Service Occupations

The Child Care Provider program prepares students for assuming the multiple roles of being a wage earner and community member. The program focuses on working knowledge of developmental milestones, work ethic, and how to adapt to the ever changing needs of children.

ISD follows a planned sequence of courses in its Child Care Provider program. The content and learning experiences are defined in subject-specific course descriptions. ISD offers two semesters for each course rather than the one semester recommended because generally students who are deaf or hard of hearing face academic challenges and require additional time to learn the skills necessary for these courses. These skills must be formally taught. Because of the intense nature of the teaching, more time is required to cover the course content.

#### Components of ISD's Secondary Child Care Provider

ISD's program includes the following components in its instructional programs.

1. Qualified, Certified Professional Educator—ISD's educator is fully qualified and certified as secondary Career Technical Education educator and possesses non-teaching work experience. The educator also holds her food handlers certification, food sanitation license, and is a licensed speech/language pathologist.
2. Student Services--ISD employs appropriate support services and these services are available to all students in the Child Care Provider program. Students at ISD have Individualized Education Plans (IEPs); individualized career plans; and individual advisement by the educator and counselor on a regular basis.
3. Sequentially Structured, Aligned Programs--The instruction in the Child Care Provider program is based on worker competencies and includes the skills, knowledge and attitudes required for successful employment in the occupations served by the program. Programs include practical, logical, sequentially structured courses and are aligned with Illinois State Board of Education Common Core standards,
4. Active Career and Technical Education Student Organizations – ISD is investigating the possibility of establishing a vocational

- organization/extracurricular activity for students in the Family and Consumer Sciences.
5. Facilities and Equipment—the facilities and equipment used in teaching the Child Care Provider program is appropriate for the students enrolled in the program. It is adequately designed, installed and maintained to ensure safe operation and use. There is appropriate instructional and storage space. Students participate in hands-on experiences in classroom and lab areas. Students also have the opportunity for job shadowing experiences and student work experiences.
  6. Active CTE Advisory Council—ISD has an active CTE Advisory Council that meets twice per year. The council provides direction and feedback for development and evaluation of the instructional programs. Membership of the committee is comprised of employers/employees, students, educators, instructors, DRS staff, LLCC staff, ISBE staff, and local businesses.

### Child Care Provider Course Structure

Foundational-level courses introduce students to all aspects of child care and serve as a background for all ISD Child Care Provider classes offered. A composite course, Child Development and Parenting, is a two semester course which is offered to all high school and transitional living program students without a background in child care. This course exposes students to a variety of child care occupations, child safety procedures, developmental milestones and the brain and physical development of children. This instruction is necessary to enable students to make meaningful decisions regarding further Child Care Provider courses.

Skill-level courses provide students with experiences that support the acquisition of occupational standards and skills required for developing independent skills and employment. The 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and Transition grade skill-level courses provide students with the opportunity to develop marketable job skills as well as preparation for further postsecondary training. All Child Care Provider programs include logical, practical, sequential learning experiences for essential child care skills and are designed to achieve that goal. The goal of ISD is to collaborate with postsecondary programs in order to complete the full scope of instruction.

ISD provides classes that utilize work-sites that give real life experience in Child Care Provider areas. The structure and content of the courses follows child labor laws and state rules and regulations. An example of a Child Care Provider work site is: local daycare facilities

## Child Care Provider

This program offers a sequence of planned educational classroom and laboratory experiences including career exploration, record keeping, content knowledge, practical work experiences provided by ISD staff and stakeholders.

Emphasis is placed on developing competencies in the following areas:

- Work place/employability skills
- Record keeping
- Content knowledge

Course Descriptions for the listed classes are in Appendix A.

### **APPENDIX A – COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**Course Title:** Child Development and Parenting (ISBE # 19052A001)

**Course Description:** Child Development and Parenting addresses the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors associated with supporting and promoting optimal growth and development of infants and children. The focus is on research-based nurturing and parenting practices and skills, including brain development research, that support positive development of children. Students will explore opportunities in human services and education-related careers and develop a career portfolio. This is a two semester course.

**Course Title:** Care and Learning Services Occupations (ISBE # 19054A001)

**Course Description:** This course provides students with information and practical experiences needed for the development of competencies related to child /adult care, day care, and other education services occupations. Laboratory experiences, either in a school-based or worksite learning facility, are included throughout the class. Students meet standards in developing programs and assisting with children's and /or adult's activities. Classroom study includes the philosophy and management of care centers and the state and local regulations governing care-giving operations. The learning experiences will involve working with children /adults simulating those found in business and industry, as well as preparation for developing and facilitating these activities. A potential credential in child development will be investigated. This is a two semester course.

**Course Title:** Student Work Experience (ISBE # 22998A000)

**Course Description:** Workplace Experience courses provide students with work experience in a field related to their interests. Goals are typically set cooperatively by the student, teacher, and employer (although students are not necessarily paid). These courses may include classroom activities as well, involving further study of the field or discussion regarding experiences that students encounter in the workplace.