

# Career Profile: Pre-Primary School Teacher

Pre-primary teachers encourage the all-round emotional, social and physical development of the young children in their care. They accomplish this by organizing play and diverse activities that enable children to develop a range of skills suitable for their stage of development, build their self esteem and learn how to interact with others. The stimulation and encouragement that children receive in a positive, caring and protected environment can have a dramatic influence on their performance when they begin formal schooling. There is a growing realisation globally about the importance of this phase of development. A number of websites contain articles and reports on the belated realization in Africa of the importance of early childhood development and the role that this phase can play in laying the foundation for successful schooling and life long learning.

## Education Requirements

### National Senior Certificate (NSC)

For a career in teaching students are advised to select suitable subjects for tertiary study.

### National Diploma / BTech

### **Bachelor of Education (Foundation Phase and Early Childhood Development) – BEd (Foundation Phase and ECD) (4 years)**

A four year degree programme that focuses on preparing teachers for early childhood development and the foundation phase.

#### **Offered at:**

- [North-West University](#)<sup>1</sup> (Faculty of Education Sciences- Potchefstroom Campus)
- [University of Johannesburg](#)<sup>2</sup> (Faculty of Education)
- [University of Limpopo](#)<sup>3</sup> (School Of Education)
- [University of Pretoria](#)<sup>4</sup> (Department of Early Childhood Education)
- [University of the Witwatersrand](#)<sup>5</sup> (Faculty of Education)
- [University of Venda](#)<sup>6</sup> (Teacher Education Department)
- [UNISA](#) (College of Human Sciences - Bachelor of Education)

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.puk.ac.za/fakulteite/opvoed/so/index\\_e.html](http://www.puk.ac.za/fakulteite/opvoed/so/index_e.html)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.uj.ac.za/Default.aspx?alias=www.uj.ac.za/edu>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.ul.ac.za/index.php?Entity=School%20Main%20Menu&school\\_id=2](http://www.ul.ac.za/index.php?Entity=School%20Main%20Menu&school_id=2)

<sup>4</sup> <http://web.up.ac.za/default.asp?ipkCategoryID=2802>

<sup>5</sup> <http://web.wits.ac.za/Academic/Humanities/Education/Undergraduate/>

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.univen.ac.za/human\\_social\\_sciences/teacher\\_education.html](http://www.univen.ac.za/human_social_sciences/teacher_education.html)

- [Tshwane University of Technology](#) (Department of Educational Studies)

### **Specializations offered:**

#### **North-West University**

**Bachelor degree:** BEd (Early Childhood Development:Foundation phase) (4 years)

#### **Tshwane University of Technology**

**Bachelor degree:** BEd (Early Childhood Development:Foundation phase) (4 years)

**Diploma/Certificate:** Advanced Certificate in Education (ACE) (Foundation phase)

#### **University of Limpopo**

**Bachelor degree:** BEd (not for this phase)

**Diploma/Certificate:** Advanced Certificate in Education (ACEGR) (Grade R)

#### **University of Pretoria**

**Bachelor degree:** BEd (Early Childhood Development and Foundation phase) (Pre-school to Grade 3)

**Diploma/Certificate:** Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) (Early Childhood Development and Foundation phase) (Pre-school to Grade 3) (1 year)

#### **University of the Witwatersrand**

**Bachelor degree:** BEd (Early Childhood Development: and Foundation phase R-gr 3) (4 years) or BEd (Foundation phase) (4 years)

**Diploma/Certificate:** Advanced Certificate in Education (ACE) (Upgrading Foundation phase)

#### **University of Venda**

**Bachelor degree:** BPre-Pri(Ed) (Pre-primary)

#### **UNISA**

**Bachelor degree:** BEd (Early Childhood Development:Foundation phase) (4 years)

**Diploma/Certificate:** National Professional Diploma in Education (Foundation Phase) / Advanced Certificate in Education (ACE) (Early Childhood Development) / Advanced Certificate in Education (ACE) (Foundation phase)

## **Admission requirements**

As admission requirements vary from one institution to another, find out what the specific requirements are by checking on the website and contacting the university if you have any queries.

## **Possible Employers**

- Provincial departments of education
- Public schools

- Private schools.

## Find out more

Find out more about pre-school teaching, bursaries and jobs:

- [Review](#)<sup>7</sup> of Early childhood investment is needed for the development of Africa, and underlines its crucial contribution to development.
- Report on the [Centre for Early Childhood Development \(CECD\)](#)<sup>8</sup> in the Western Cape.
- [UNISA brochure](#)<sup>9</sup> on careers in education and training.
- Operational guidelines for supporting [ECD in multi-sectoral HIV/AIDS programmes](#)<sup>10</sup> in Africa.

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<sup>7</sup> [http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article.php?a\\_id=131719](http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article.php?a_id=131719)

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.ssaci.org.za/report/report07.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.unisa.ac.za/contents/faculties/service\\_dept/docs/education.pdf](http://www.unisa.ac.za/contents/faculties/service_dept/docs/education.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.hsrb.ac.za/Document-1660.phtml>

## Are you suited to this career?

This quick quiz can help you to identify whether you are suited for this occupation.

Quiz	Yes	No
Do you have a keen interest in children?		
Are you able to build and maintain good relations with young people and parents?		
Are you compassionate?		
Are you able to create a relaxed atmosphere?		
Are you able to communicate easily with various age groups, but especially with young children?		
Are you patient, tolerant and tactful?		
Do you enjoy good health and stamina?		
Are you creative?		
Are you supportive and encouraging?		
Would young children benefit from spending time with you?		

If you have mainly yes answers it may be an indication that this is an occupation to consider.