

DISCOVERING QUALITY JOBS

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ASSISTANT TEACHER

WHAT ARE QUALITY JOBS?

Quality Jobs offer competitive wages and benefits, predictable hours, and opportunities for advancement without requiring a college degree. They exist in high-growth industries that value skills gained through alternative routes such as training programs, military service, lived experience, and more.

WHAT ARE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ASSISTANT TEACHERS?

An Early Childhood Education Assistant Teacher supports a lead preschool teacher with educational and caregiving tasks. The assistant teacher helps implement educational programs in a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment for infants, toddlers, or preschoolers.

YOU MIGHT ENJOY THIS JOB IF YOU ARE:

- Caring and adaptable to each child's needs.
- Organized to ensure healthy and engaging play.
- Creative in fostering curiosity and active learning.
- Able to communicate clearly to build strong relationships.
- Collaborative to implement plans effectively.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A QUALITY JOB:



Living Wages: Starting pay at Preschool for All (PFA) worksites is **\$22.27 per hour**. At non-PFA worksites, starting pay is \$16-\$21 per hour.



Accessible Hiring Practices: No advanced degrees required, and all necessary certifications can be obtained through standardized online trainings.



Comprehensive Benefits: Many employers offer a full benefit package, including medical, dental, vision, paid time off, and retirement savings, which can **increase total compensation up to 30%**.



Training and Advancement Opportunities: Advancement opportunities available with or without a degree. PFA worksites offer scholarships and free professional development opportunities.



Predictable Schedule: Most employers offer **set schedules**. Schedule needs and flexibility vary between school-based, center-based, or home-based worksites.



Worker Safety and Engagement: This is a **highly regulated occupation** with safety and working conditions in place to meet State Child Care Licensing Division rules.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ASSISTANT TEACHERS WORK AT:

Private early learning and care centers



Public early learning and care centers (Head Start)



In-home early learning and care centers (Family Child Care)



Elementary school preschools

Early intervention and special education

THEY ARE ALSO KNOWN AS:

Teacher's Aide I or II

Infant/Toddler Teacher

Childcare Worker

Instructional Assistant

Educational Assistant

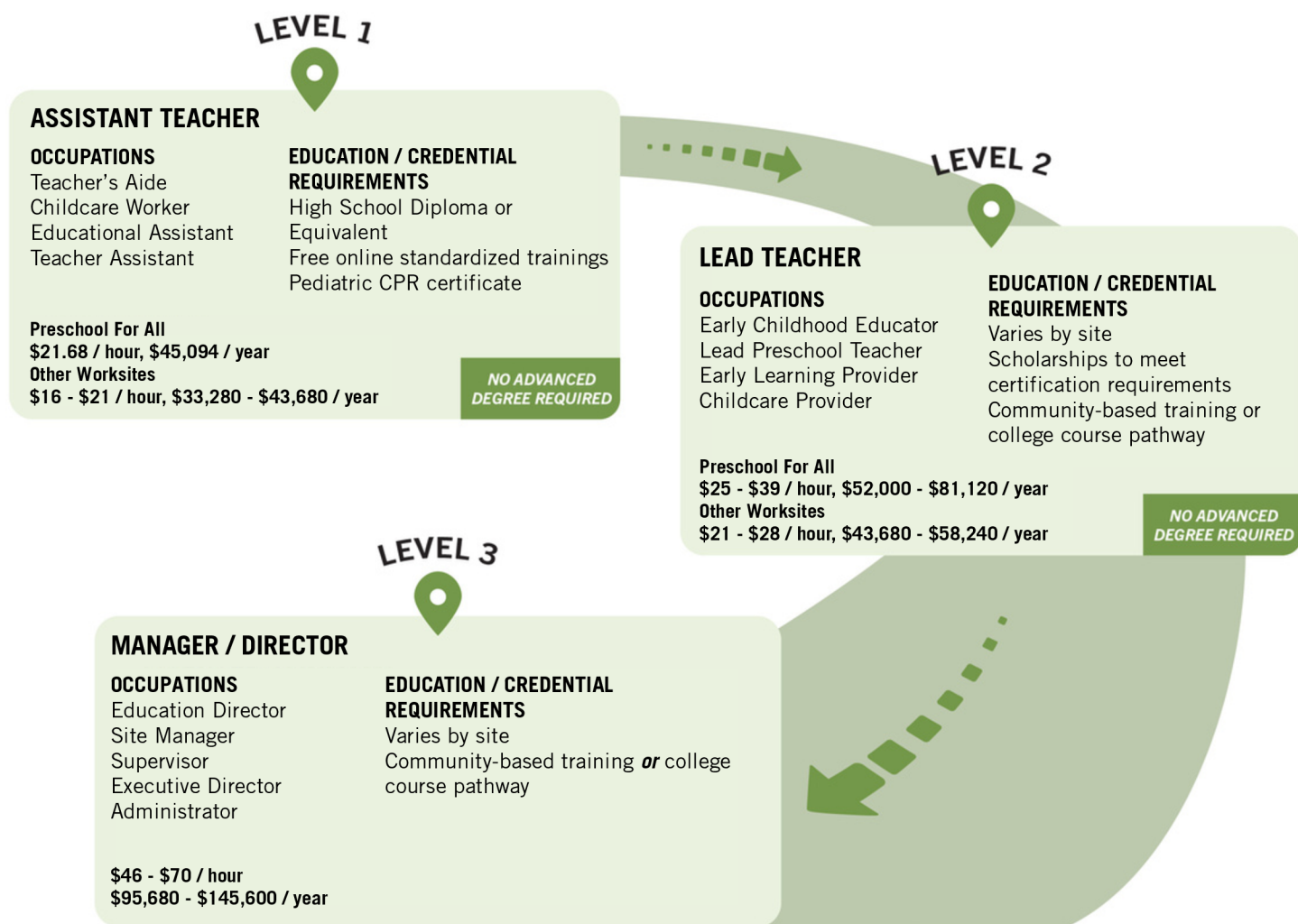
Preschool Teacher Assistant

Floater

Preschool Support Teacher

Guide

CAREER PATHWAYS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ASSISTANT TEACHERS



COMMON QUALIFICATIONS:

- 18 years or older
- High school degree or GED equivalent
- Pass a fingerprint-based background check, without disqualifying conditions
- Have an ITIN or SSN

INSIDER TIPS:

- Early Childhood Education is more than childcare – this growing field offers pathways into education, policy, and specialty roles.
- No credentials needed to start, but certification and education are expected over time.
- Scholarships and free career coaching services are available.



GET STARTED

CONNECT WITH A WORKSOURCE REP

Talk to your career coach or get in touch with a WorkSource representative today at [worksourceportlandmetro.org](https://www.worksourceportlandmetro.org).

GET A HEAD START

WorkSource offers scholarships for training and certification. Learn more about applying by attending a free virtual info session.

Visit [worksourceportlandmetro.org/events](https://www.worksourceportlandmetro.org/events) to register.