



**Child Development**

CONNECTING HEARTS, GROWING MINDS

## Impact the Future by Shaping Young Minds

If you're drawn to working with children and making a difference in their early years, our program is the perfect place to start. Study how young children grow and learn, gain hands-on experience in our Preschool Lab, and build the skills to support their development and well-being. With flexible options to earn certificates, complete your AA degree, or transfer to a university, you'll be ready to launch a meaningful career helping children thrive.

### START HERE - EARLY CARE & EDUCATION PATHWAYS

#### Start with any CHDEV courses totaling 6 units!

Contact the Resource Center to select the right courses for you.

**JUMP INTO THE WORKFORCE  
RIGHT AFTER EARNING YOUR  
CERTIFICATE(S) OR DEGREE**

Start working as a  
preschool assistant

#### Certificate of Proficiency (CP)

##### Assistant Teacher

6 CHDEV units



#### Certificate of Proficiency (CP)

##### Associate Teacher

12 CHDEV units



#### Certificate of Achievement (CA)

##### Teacher

24 CHDEV units + 16 General Education units



#### Associate in Arts Degree (AA)

##### Child Development

60 units



#### Associate in Science for Transfer (AS-T)

##### Early Childhood Education

60 units



#### TRANSFER OPPORTUNITIES

Pursue a bachelor's degree  
and beyond!

- Elementary Education
- Child Psychology
- Social Work
- Human Development
- Marriage and Family Therapy



Degrees are awarded upon the satisfactory completion of CHDEV courses and General Education requirements.



I deeply appreciate the hands-on community support from the CHDEV department at Merritt. They provided a sense of guidance and growth throughout my educational career.

Christian Hernandez  
CHDEV Alumni



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**Early Care & Education** is all about how children grow and learn—physically, emotionally, socially, and cognitively. These early years are some of the most important in a child's life, and the experiences they have during this time shape who they become. **In these programs, you'll learn how to support children's development in real and meaningful ways.** You'll explore how kids think and learn, how they express emotions, how to encourage social skills, and how to create safe and fun learning environments.

### Career Opportunities in the Field

Graduates of our program have pursued various careers in the field of early care & education. Here are some examples:

- **Teacher's Aide:** Assisting in the preparation and management of classroom activities.
- **Preschool Teacher:** Designing and implementing lesson plans for young children.
- **Site Supervisor:** Overseeing daily operations of childcare facilities.
- **Child Care Center Director:** Managing staff and programs within a childcare center.
- **Family Child Care Owner:** Operating a childcare business from home.
- **Family Advocate:** Working with families to support children's development and well-being.
- **Child Life Assistant:** Providing play opportunities and emotional support to children with extended stays in hospitals.

#### We support you on your journey with:

Academic and professional  
advisory support

Ongoing relationships with  
faculty and counselors

Connections to employers  
and community partners

#### Learn more at the CHDEV Resource Center!

Get support with:

- Course selection
- Degree planning
- Transcript evaluation
- Permit applications
- Career navigation

Visit [merritt.edu/chdev/resource-center/](http://merritt.edu/chdev/resource-center/)





## Get Started on Your Future Today

Scan the QR code or visit  
[www.merritt.edu](http://www.merritt.edu) to apply.



### Merritt College puts students first.

For decades, it has stood at the intersection of social justice, community empowerment, and career-focused education—expanding opportunity for underrepresented communities and supporting pathways into meaningful, living-wage careers. Whether you're switching professions, building new skills, or aiming for a promotion, Merritt's Career Education programs help you reach your goals through hands-on training, immersive career exploration, and support tailored to every student—especially working adults.

Our programs prepare students for licensure and certifications with strong pass rates and are aligned with high-demand jobs in the Bay Area and beyond. It's never been easier to complete a certificate, earn an Associate's degree, or prepare to transfer to a CSU or other four-year university. With flexible class times—morning, evening, and online—and services like counseling, the Learning Center, EOPS, and Student Accessibility Services (SAS), Merritt meets you where you are.



### Meet with a Counselor early and often!

Whether you're enrolling in classes, exploring career options or navigating personal challenges, Counselors have your back! Counselors are available through scheduled appointments, remote drop-ins, and e-counseling (for specific needs).



Visit [merritt.edu/counseling/](http://merritt.edu/counseling/) to learn more, or contact a dedicated Career Education Counselor at [MCCareerEd@peralta.edu](mailto:MCCareerEd@peralta.edu)