

## Informational Interview Assignment

Each student will interview an early childhood professional during the course of this semester. These professionals need to have a minimum of three years of experience in their early childhood education field and at least one year in their current position. You **will interview someone in a “pie in the sky” early childhood position**. Let your imagination run wild within the field. Broaden your horizons beyond preschool or elementary teacher and childcare provider. The early childhood profession includes many other professionals such as: *pediatric doctors & nurses, children’s librarians, child psychologists, school psychologists, occupational therapists, parent educators, children’s authors & illustrators, curriculum developers (hard copy & software), educational product developers, educational & curriculum marketers, etc.* the list goes on and on... You may interview **someone in a teaching position** (such as *preschool or primary grade teacher or childcare provider*) as a second extra credit information interview for half credit. Both are due on same date, see the syllabus for date.

**Written Assignment:** You will need to provide a one page typewritten handout for each student in the class and the instructor. You will also need to turn in a paper detailing your interview for your instructor. Your interview and paper should include but not be limited to, the following information (be sure to ask the appropriate follow up questions as needed):

- Title
- Salary Range
- Official Job Description
- Job Responsibilities
- Career Path - how to get there and where to go from there
- Minimum job requirements
- What do they actually do each day, week, month in their current position
- Greatest Challenges of the position
- What do they like least and best about the position - have them be specific
- If they could change one thing what would it be and why?
- What on going education, training, classes are required?
- Professional accomplishments
- Their philosophy and values regarding working with young children
- Why are they doing what they are doing?
- What is the one piece of information they wish someone had provided them with before entering their profession?
- Personal qualities or characteristics needed for this position
- What recommendations do they have for you
- Outlook for jobs in the future for this position
- Can they provide you with the names of three other professionals to contact

Your paper should include an introduction paragraph, discussing what position you chose and why. The body of the text should be done in an interview format. Write out the complete question and the interviewee’s exact answer. Conclude with a summary of what you learned from this experience and from the person you interviewed.