Early Childhood Education is a profession that promotes the well being and holistic development of children from infancy to school age in child care centres and school age programs. It is regulated by the College of Early Childhood Educators.

An early childhood educator must have a diploma from a recognized program in Early Childhood Education. This program is two years in length and offered at the college level.

The College of Early Childhood Educators is recognized as the licensing body for Ontario. To be registered as an early childhood educator, a diploma in Early Childhood Education must be obtained.

Early childhood educators work in a variety of early learning and care programs including:
- Child Care Centres
- Family Resource Centres
- Ontario Early Years Centres
- Home Child Care
- School Age Programs
- Best Start Programs
- Government/ Regulation
- Post-Secondary ECE training programs