

mathematics and science and 9 semester hours of course work in both English and social studies;

- Complete 27 semester hours of professional education course work taken at an institution of higher education, including a course in each of the following at the appropriate age or grade level: child development, human learning, teaching methodology, inclusion of special needs student populations, assessment of students, processes and acquisition of reading skills, best practices in reading instruction that include the cuing systems of graphophonics, semantics, and syntax, use of reading assessment data to improve instruction, and materials for teaching reading to gain literary experience, to perform a task, and to read for information
- Complete a teaching experience in one of the following ways:
  - Supervised experience in a public or accredited nonpublic school setting at the prekindergarten or kindergarten and primary age/grade level
  - 1 year of successful full-time teaching experience in a public or accredited nonpublic school setting at the prekindergarten, kindergarten, or primary age/grade level

### Settings

- Maryland public school prekindergarten

## Early Childhood Special Educator (Supports and Services in the Natural Environment)

An early childhood special educator may be employed by a local lead agency or local school system which operates a local infants and toddlers program to provide supports and services in the natural environment to infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with disabilities through five) and their families through an extended Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP).

- Knowledgeable of services including: speech, occupational and physical therapies, audiology, specialized instruction, and family training
- Knowledgeable about environments and learning experiences that value, affirm, and respect each child's diverse needs and abilities

### Required Education

- Bachelor's degree or higher and meet all requirements for a generic special education certification for Infant/Primary (birth – grade 3)
- Suitable qualifications (a minimum of 120



contact hours of documented pre-service and/or in-service training in nine competency areas) for personnel providing early intervention services to eligible children and their families in excess of 15 percent of employment hours

### Settings

- Home-based
- Center-based
- Public school
- Private school



## Early Intervention Special Educator (Preschool Special Education in the Least Restrictive Environment)

An early childhood special educator may be employed by a local school system or public agency to provide preschool special education in the least restrictive environment to preschoolers with disabilities (ages three through five) and their families through an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

- Knowledgeable of services including: speech, occupational and physical therapies, audiology, specialized instruction, and family training
- Knowledgeable about environments and learning experiences that value, affirm, and respect each child's diverse needs and abilities

### Required Education

- Bachelor's degree or higher and meet all requirements for a generic special education certification for Infant/Primary (birth–grade 3) education certification for Infant/Primary (birth–grade 3)

### Settings

- Home-based
- Center-based
- Public school
- Private school