

SUPPORTIVE SERVICE CAREERS

Home Visitor

Home visiting programs are voluntary, locally managed programs that support the physical and emotional development of children (prenatally through age five) and also support the family. A home visitor would provide information on child development, parenting strategies, counseling resources, continuing education, employment, and quality child care to expectant and new mothers. The home visitor builds a relationship with the family and works in partnership with parents to improve maternal and child health, prevent child abuse and neglect, encourage positive parenting, and promote child development and school readiness.

Job descriptions and qualifications vary for home visiting careers. Some home visitors are social workers, some are nurses, community health workers, or family support workers. Each home visiting program lists specific criteria/skills necessary for the program, and training by the program is required. For example, the Nurse-Family Partnership model of home visiting only hires bachelor's degree prepared nurses.

For more information, contact your local health department or local community organizations that support mothers with young children.

Setting

- *Head Start and *Early Head Start
- Health departments
- Healthy Families America
- Nurse-Family Partnership

- Non-profit organization
- Parents As Teachers
- Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)

Early Childhood Coordinator

- Promotes continuous, collaborative learning
- Advocates for children and the profession
- Provides resources to child care professionals for professional growth
- Builds collaborative relationships with community partners and early education programs
- References best practices to help child care professionals
- Recruits prospective child care professionals
- Participates in a professional association

Minimum Required Education

Skilled Level:

- Bachelor's degree in an early childhood related field with 2 to 5 years' experience

Professional Level:

- Master's degree in an early childhood related field with 5 or more years' experience
- Additional advanced coursework

Settings

- Child care resource and referral agency
- Government agency
- *Head Start/Early Head Start
- Non-profit organization
- Parents As Teachers
- Professional association

*Different programs may have different minimum requirements.