



Day Care Worker

Other names for this job

Child care worker, play school teacher

What do day care workers do?

Day care workers take care of infants and **preschool children**. Day care workers work in day care centres, play schools and other places.

Meet a day care worker

Carri works as a day care worker. She works with young children.

Here are things that Carri does:

- She takes care of the children. For example, she takes them to the bathroom. She helps them wash their hands.
- She plays with the children. They sing songs together, too.
- She makes sure the children are safe.
- She gets the children ready for naptime.
- She prepares snacks.

- She takes the children outside. They play games.
- She plans daily **schedules**. For example, the time to go outside and the time to sing.

Sometimes Carri helps take the children on a field trip. For example, they go to a fire station.



**tip**

Do you see words in **bold**?
You can look up these words at
alis.alberta.ca/ERdictionary.

What is Carri's work like?

Carri works Monday to Friday. She works an 8-hour **shift**. The day care centre is open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sometimes Carri works from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sometimes she works from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Carri bends, stretches and stands a lot at work. She has to lift children. They can weigh up to 20 kilograms (about 45 pounds).

Carri is always busy. She has to be **patient**. Sometimes the children are unhappy. Sometimes they have small fights. Carri talks to them. She teaches them to play together.

Carri talks to the children's parents. She tells the parents about the children's day. For example, she says, "Your son made a nice picture today."

**Do you want to be a day care worker?**

- You need to be clean and tidy.
- You must be in good health.
- You must like to work with young children.
- You have to be **observant**. You must watch the children. You must see if there are problems. For example, a child may be sick.
- You have to talk with the children and their parents. You have to talk with your **co-workers**.
- You must be creative. For example, Carri thinks of new games.
- You have to solve (find an answer to) problems. You have to think quickly. For example, two children start fighting. Carri has to do something quickly.
- You may need a **criminal record check**.
- You may need a **child intervention record check**.
- You may need a First Aid certificate.



What education do day care workers need?

- Day care workers need training in child development.
- Some people get a **certificate**. They may need a high school **diploma** for this training.
- Some people take a 2-year diploma. Sometimes they take courses while they are working as a day care worker.

You can ask your **career advisor** or tutor about working as a day care worker. You can ask about training, too.

What can day care workers do in the future?

Day care workers with **experience** can become **supervisors**. Some day care workers start their own day care centres. Some day care workers operate their own day homes. They can take care of 6 children in their home.



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How much does a day care worker make?

A day care worker usually makes between \$16.82 and \$22.54 per hour.

Other jobs to think about

Nannies take care of babies and young children in people's homes. For example, nannies dress and feed the children. They play with the children. They make sure the children are safe.

Do you want more information?

You can find the information below at alis.alberta.ca/occinfo. Or you can ask your career advisor or tutor.

- OCCinfo profile: Early Childhood Educator
- Video: Early Childhood Educator
- Easy Reading Dictionary

You can also ask your career advisor or tutor about jobs that are like Day Care Worker.

