

ASPIRE

Teacher Training Institute

The Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County's Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) is a one-of-a-kind, state-recognized, **tuition-free**, comprehensive training opportunity for new childcare teachers entering the field and rising educators pursuing a teacher credential. Much like a college, our pioneering RAP offers a structured pathway to professional success, but with a unique twist—we do it all on our own at our Professional Development Center. You don't have to deal with university enrollment or worry about student loans. Instead, our early childhood specialists, with their deep understanding of the field, have designed this free program to meet the unique needs of each participant, even honoring active IEPs. This innovative model is the first of its kind among all Florida ELCs and features two tailored tracks: Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship.

Pre-Apprenticeship

Equipping participants with the essential skills required to teach in a classroom, this program takes you step by step through the mandatory DCF 40-hour introductory childcare classes. With our virtual courses, you'll enjoy a flexible schedule that lets you work at your own pace. You'll also benefit from one-on-one mentoring, workshops on professionalism and interviewing skills, and a career pathways component that guides new teachers in acquiring the skills and education they need to enhance their abilities. Plus, job placement assistance is available, so you can earn while you learn. And make sure to ask about our paid internships for high school students!

Apprenticeship

Designed for early educators, already teaching in a classroom, who are interested in pursuing the Florida Child Care Professional Credential, also known as the FCCPC. This hybrid program includes required coursework, on-the-job training and onsite mentoring where you will receive credit for both work and training hours. Plus, upon completion, your credential equals 9 college credits that you can apply toward an associate's or bachelor's degree if interested in advancing in Early Education. If so, learn how you can earn an A.A. or B.A. by utilizing the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship.

Help Children
Thrive
Watch Your Career
Blossom

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