



# Bridges Career Academy Child Development

*Brainerd High School*

Understand more about childcare and education. Learn the foundational skills to prepare for working with children in a variety of professional careers. Understand child developmental stages while observing and participating in the Early Childhood Family education setting and learning about the foundations of childhood educational strategies, organizations dealing with young children and the developmental stages of childhood. Gain entry-level employment or continue education.

## Academic Courses

- Child Development I
- Child Development Career Preparation/Internship

## Career Experiences


- Learn from industry speakers
- Participate in an internship/observations
- Attend the Bridges Career Exploration Day or other regional career fairs

## Completion Standards

COMPLETE



**Both courses**

GRADES  
**B** 



Earn a **certificate**  
and **green cord**  
at graduation



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## Job Skills

In addition to having technical skills, employers expect workers in this industry to have these skills:

- Collecting, creating and presenting lesson plans
- Reading and listening skills
- Written communication skills
- Demonstrate understanding of social skills and cultural diversity
- Ability to manage materials and supplies
- Leadership and decision-making skills



# Child Development Academy

## Brainerd High School

The Child Development Academy is the gateway to a wide variety of careers in the world of childcare and education. Students learn the foundational skills to prepare for working with children in a variety of professional careers through the Child Development and Internship courses. Courses focus on child developmental stages while observing and participating in the Early Childhood Family education setting. Students will hear from guest speakers who work in the scope of child development. During their internship students gain not only career awareness opportunities but also how to plan child development activities through a concurrent internship. The foundations of childhood educational strategies, learning about organizations dealing with young children and gaining and understanding of the developmental stages of childhood highlight this academy. Students interested in fields of Early Childhood, Teaching, Social Work and Child Care would be interested in this academy. Students completing this academy will have the skills necessary to gain entry-level employment or the basic knowledge to continue on to higher education.

### ACADEMY COURSES

#### **Child Development** — 1 High School Credit

This course is designed as a group class that meets from 1:30 p.m. to 3: p.m. on Thursdays during the 1<sup>st</sup> semester. The course focuses on the basics of Child Development from birth through the ages of six. The course is a hands-on, project-based course that includes weekly homework assignments. Students will begin to create a Portfolio of childcare related activities and learning documentations that demonstrates learning. Students have an opportunity to observe in the Early Childhood classroom settings.

#### **Child Development Career Preparation/Internship** — 1 High School Credit

This course is designed as a group class that meets from 1:30 p.m. to 3: p.m. on Thursdays during the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. The course will focus on Child Care Careers, settings and a practicum. The course is a hands-on, project-based and includes weekly assignments. Students will continue developing their Portfolio and will prepare and present information to lead students in the class activities, both in the early childhood classroom and with peers. Students will complete a resume and practice interviewing activities. The class will culminate with a Peer Portfolio review. Students will interview for a student internship position with Early Childhood Staff and complete mandatory internship hours for credit. Observation logs, lesson plans and other activities, as well as teacher observations, will be added to the student Portfolio and allow for further demonstrations of skills learned.

### COMPLETION STANDARD

Students wishing to receive a certification for this academy must complete both courses and earn 85% in each of the courses. In addition, students must complete NCRCs with a minimum of a bronze rating.

### CAREER EXPERIENCES

Students will explore and research careers with industry speakers, and participate in Bridges Career Exploration Day. Observations and internships in Early Childhood classrooms, observing and working with Early Childhood educators will allow students to practice and enhance their skills.

### JOB SKILLS

In addition to having technical skills, employers expect their workers to have other skills such as:

- Collecting, creating and presenting lesson plans
- Reading and listening skills
- Written communication skills
- Demonstrate understanding of social skills and cultural diversity
- Ability to manage materials and supplies
- Leadership and decision-making skills

**CAREER OPTIONS:** [www.careerwise.minnstate.edu/careers](http://www.careerwise.minnstate.edu/careers)

**JOB OUTLOOK:** [www.careerwise.minnstate.edu/jobs](http://www.careerwise.minnstate.edu/jobs)

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