



Career Information Child and Youth Care

Overview

Career Title: Child and Youth Care Worker

Industry/Field: Human Services

The Child and Youth Care program at Northern Lakes College is designed to equip learners with the necessary knowledge and skills to work effectively with children, youth, families, and communities. This comprehensive program focuses on mental health, trauma-informed care, assessments, interventions, advocacy, and ethical practice. Throughout the program, learners will engage in a combination of theoretical learning, experiential activities, and practicum opportunities.

Date	February 2025 Updated
Required Education & Skills	<p>Hard Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding of child and adolescent development stages and psychology• Techniques for managing and modifying challenging behaviors• Skills in de-escalating and managing crisis situations effectively• Organizing and coordinating care for children and youth <p>Soft Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to understand and share the feelings of clients, fostering a trusting and supportive environment• Fully concentrating, understanding, and responding to clients' needs and concerns• Sensitivity and respect for diverse backgrounds and cultures• Ability to identify issues and develop effective solutions• Remaining calm and composed, especially in challenging situations
Job Market & Outlook	<p>Current Demand: The demand for Child and Youth Care Workers across various provinces remains strong, with particularly good job prospects in Alberta, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island.</p> <p>Projected Growth: Over the period from 2022 to 2031, the labor market is expected to remain balanced with job opening and job seekers projected to be a similar levels.</p> <p>Salary Information: These are average national salaries, experience, and geographical location will alter your salary. These figures can fluctuate based on factors such as industry demand certifications, and regional economic conditions. Alberta's average salary tends to be higher, reflecting the provincial demands and economic conditions.</p> <p>Entry-Level: \$36,800.00 Mid-Level: \$43,000.00 Experienced: \$61,000.00</p>

Pros & Cons of this Career

Pros:

- Fulfilling Work: Helping children and youth overcome challenges and improve their quality of life.
- Job Security: High demand for addictions counsellors ensures stable employment opportunities
- Opportunities to work in diverse environments such as hospitals, schools, community centers and government agencies.
- Professional Growth: Opportunities for specialization and continuing education to advance your career

Cons:

- Exposure to client trauma and relapses can lead to emotional stress and burnout
- High Stress: Managing crisis situations and dealing with life-and-death scenarios regularly
- Often involves long hours and a heavy caseload, which can be exhausting
- Working with clients who may be resistant to help or have complex needs can be tough

This information has been compiled using publicly accessible provincial and federal data sources.

