**Classrooms to Careers in**

**Birth to Kindergarten Teacher**

**Are you interested in**: teaching children ages 5 and under?

Becoming a Birth to Kindergarten (B-K) teacher at Meredith College is a win-win process: you major in Child Development and take courses in the professional teacher licensure program. Study in your major will prepare you to understand your students and learning environments that support the growth of young children. Your professional education courses will prepare you to teach—including planning and assessing learning activities. You will learn to understand your students and to design instruction for all students. You can begin taking required licensure courses as a sophomore. After taking one Education course, you can apply to the teacher education program.

**Types of jobs:** Preschool or kindergarten teacher in public, private, or charter school; child center teacher

**Or attend graduate school for**:

* Child development,
* reading specialist,
* special education,
* academically and intellectually gifted education,
* English as a second language,
* curriculum and instruction specialist,
* school administration (with teaching experience)

**Options for the program**

* Earn a BS in Child Development.
* Join MAEYC, Meredith Association for the Education of Young Children, and learn about the field of early childhood education.
* Join Meredith Educators. This group organizes speakers and sponsors special activities for students interested in teaching.
* During your first year at Meredith, take the critical thinking seminar called “Education Under Fire!” as an elective. This will give you an opportunity to debate important issues in education and to visit schools.
* Attend, in March, the information session for first year students who are interested in teaching. During your sophomore year, attend the Orientation to Teacher Education.
* Attend the Orientation to Teacher Education in the fall of your sophomore year.
* Participate in child center and school-based field placements. In your required professional education courses and most of your major courses, you will have a placement in a school or center. You will tutor students, observe teachers and classrooms, and have the opportunity to teach as you are ready.
* Teach during your semester-long student teaching internship.
* Aim for Kappa Delta Pi, the education honor society.

**Professional Associations –**

Meredith Association for the Education of Young Children

Meredith Educators

National Association for the Education of Young Children

Council for Exceptional Children

National Association for Gifted Children

Teachers of Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

National Association of Elementary School Principals

National Association of Secondary School Principals

North Carolina Association of Educators

Professional Educators of North Carolina

Kappa Delta Pi

**Career Outlook –**

Kindergarten Teacher, <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/education-training-and-library/kindergarten-and-elementary-school-teachers.htm>

**Optional Information –**

Meredith College faculty and staff work closely with public school teachers and administrators. This helps us design programs to prepare you for real classrooms. We see you as a future teacher-leader!