

Roles and Definitions

The goal of the Early Childhood Apprenticeship is to provide Apprentices with a supportive environment to apply skills and knowledge gained in the Early Childhood Education Program. The Apprenticeship takes place in a school setting, under the guidance of a “Master Teacher” who acts as the Apprentice’s mentor. The Apprenticeship will enable Augusta State University students to develop skills in needed areas, and further refine areas of strength. It is the final step in the Apprentice’s professional preparation before entering the field as a professional educator.

The Apprentice:

The role of the Apprentice is to work closely with the master teacher in developing the skills, knowledge, abilities, and attitudes indicative of an effective Early Childhood teacher. The Apprentice should act responsibly and professionally throughout the experience, gradually taking on all of the roles of the classroom teacher, with support and intervention from the master teacher. Communication with the master teacher and the university coordinator is key to the success of the Apprenticeship. The Apprentice must be responsible for facilitating this communication verbally, and in writing with the master teacher. The Apprentice should also alert the university coordinator of any issues or concerns related to the experience. The Apprentice is ultimately responsible to the students in the classroom in which he/she teaches. An Apprentice does best when self-directed, active, and committed to making the experience a beneficial and positive one for all concerned. During the Apprenticeship, the student will attend and participate in all meetings or after school events that his/her Master Teacher is required to attend.

A student enrolled in the Apprenticeship Experience may not accept pay for work carried out in relation to the school program such as substituting, tutoring, coaching, or any similar activity. Most importantly, an Apprentice may not serve as a substitute teacher for the assigned or any other classroom nor may he/she supervise recess without a certified teacher present.