

A career in Early Childhood Education

More daycare space needed on PEI by Heidi Riley

“Early Childhood Education is a rewarding career,” says **Sonya Hooper**, Executive Director, **Early Childhood Development Association of PEI (ECDA)**.

“Their contribution is a cornerstone of PEI’s economic growth, because the availability of quality affordable childcare allows more people to find jobs. We often get calls from businesses that can’t expand or open for a longer season because their workers can’t find child care.”

ECDA manages the PEI Early Learning and Child Care Registry. “There are more than 260 infants on the waiting list for daycare,” says Sonya. “We often hear from parents who are not able to take a job because they can’t find a licensed daycare space.”

Where do they work?

Early Childhood Educators work in designated and non-designated early childhood centres, and in licensed centres in full-day or half-day programs, family resource centre programs, school-aged programs, and licensed family home care.

Jobs in Early Childhood Centres

- Director or Supervisor
- Early Childhood Educators
- Substitute Caregivers
- Special Needs Assistant/Inclusions Support Worker
- Early Childhood Educator Assistants
- Cook

Substitutes require

Substitute Early Childhood Educators require a criminal record check and vulnerable sector check, must be 18 years of age or older, and have emergency first aid certification. They do not require Early Childhood Care and Education training, although some experience working with children is beneficial.

Visit www.ecdaofpei.ca to sign up to be a substitute.

Education options on PEI

- **Holland College:** Early Childhood Care and Education program – 2 years
- **Collège de l’Île:**
 - Early Childhood Assistant: 1 year
 - Early Childhood Educator: 2 years
- **UPEI 2 plus 2 program:** Bachelor of Child and Family Studies

Starting a daycare business

“Starting a home daycare is a great option for stay-at-home mothers,” says Sonya. “However, there is a fair amount of homework to do upfront. Do your research and understand the needs in your community.”

“PEI has invested in training to increase the level of knowledge and expertise among those working in the field.”

Sonya Hooper,
Executive Director,
Early Childhood
Development
Association of PEI.



As a result, there is an increase in the number of certified people working in the field, or perhaps interested in opening a family home centre.

“Although licensing your centre involves some paperwork, when a centre is licensed they can access childcare subsidies and other grants. As of January 2018, there are only two licensed home childcare centres on PEI.”

For more information about daycare regulations, visit www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-early-learning-and-culture/frequently-asked-questions-family-home-child-care

For more about the **Early Childhood Development Association of PEI**, visit www.ecdaofpei.ca

Daycare providers are listed on the **Early Learning and Child Care Registry**. Visit www.ecdaofpei.ca/ecregistry/. An updated registry will be available in April, 2018.

For the full interview, visit www.employmentjourney.com and search **Early Childhood Development**.



Montague Rural Action Centre assists childcare worker to become self-employed

by Stella Shepard

Sally Drake of Morell is a graduate of the Holland College Early Childhood Education program and the Child and Youth Care Worker program. She worked in the field for 15 years before becoming self-employed.

In 2017, Sally opened **Morell Before and After School Program**, a licensed, regulated program for school aged children located at the Morell Maples Mall.

The business offers professional childcare services for school aged children before and after school and on teacher professional development days, as well as a summer childcare program.

“The supervisor of another program in the area approached me about her waiting list and not having enough space to fulfill the need for more before and after school care. I knew there was a high demand and a friend offered me a space, so I decided to take the opportunity.”

It took about a year before Sally put her business plan in action. She sought advice from self-employed friends who were also business mentors. They recommended the Rural Action Centre (RAC) in Montague to assist Sally with her journey to self-employment.

“The people at RAC recommended the **Successful Business Basics program**, which was beneficial in learning about the operational side of the business.

“As well, I was able to access a start-up business loan. If I have any business-related questions, I call the RAC staff. They take the time to listen and offer advice.”

Successful Business Basics program

Successful Business Basics is sponsored by the Rural Action Centre, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, CBDC, Innovation PEI, and SkillsPEI.

The program teaches basic business skills such as planning and preparing a budget, controlling cash flow, tax responsibility, understanding financial statements, and beginner Excel.

“Starting a small business is often about fulfilling a dream of following through on a passion and using your talents and knowledge to turn it into a successful business, such as what Sally has done,” says **Martina MacDonald**, General Manager of the RAC.

“An awareness of resources is important when starting or expanding a business. The programs and services are designed to assist our clients to be successful, so they can work and live in their communities.”

If you are a new entrepreneur and live in a rural community in Atlantic Canada, you may be eligible for a First-Time Entrepreneur Loan from your Community Business Development Corporation (CBDC).

Future hiring needs

Sally is accepting applications for a summer employee for the summer childcare program. The applicant must be in a post-secondary program and have experience working with children.

Sally Drake of Morell worked in the childcare field for years before she opened **Morell Before and After School Program** at the **Morell Maples Mall, Coffin Road**.



For more information, contact **Sally Drake** at **902-218-3910** or visit Facebook and search **Morell Before and After School Program**.

To register for **Successful Business Basics**, contact:

Montague: call **902-838-4030** ext. 221 or email chantale.ansems@cbdc.ca

Souris: call **902-687-4084** or email lori.macgregor@cbdc.ca

For more information about **Rural Action Centres** across the Island, visit www.ruralactioncentres.ca or toll free **1-855-297-9898**.

For more about the programs and services offered at **Community Business Development Corporation (CBDC)**, visit www.cbdc.ca and click **Programs or Resources**.



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