

Like driving a car.... Early Childhood Education

Giselle Carter - January 2021

There is a lot to know to be a great Early Childhood Educator. Understanding learning theories is part of the car. Having great pedagogy and curriculum is part of being an educator as well. Ratios are important, as is the schedule and flow of the day. Adequate and age-appropriate material and experiences are essential too. One also needs to understand how children develop in the different domains – the common progression, and what is within the normal range and what is not. These are all parts of the car. It is true that Early Childhood Education doesn't work without them, but when you drive the car, there are important skills the driver needs. The driver needs to understand the children – be present, listen, interact, get to know each individual child. Without the relationship with the child, the child's individual personality and level of development, an educator can not succeed in providing the best learning environment for the child. The relationship – which includes the skills of listening to children, playing with children, being responsive to their comments and needs - are the core of being an effective Early Childhood Educator.