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Welcome Message from the Director

As we move into Spring, our work at the Shasta College Early Childhood Education Center is rooted in the Constructivist-inspired belief in the image of the child—a child who is capable, curious, and full of ideas. Guided by the writings of Loris Malaguzzi, our constructivist, NAEYC-accredited lab school values observation, relationships, and learning that emerges from children's questions and theories.

Our classrooms are living laboratories where children and adults learn together, and where college students in ECE 8 Practicum engage in meaningful, hands-on teaching experiences with mentor educators. I'm often reminded of a favorite quote from my former professor, Alise Shaffer, who once said, "The child is the professor—and the test is on Monday." In other words, our greatest responsibility is to watch closely, listen deeply, and let the children lead the learning.

—Beverly Charsha, ECE Director



Calendar at a Glance

- MAR**
- 20** Advisory Board Meeting
 - 26** Summer 2026 registration opens for Continuing students
- APR**
- 6** Spring Break
 - 11** Week of the Young Child
 - 22** Fall 2026 Course Schedule available

- MAY**
- 12** Student Teacher Showcase, 5pm-6pm
 - 22** Last day of the Spring Semester Commencement Ceremony
- JUN**
- 8** Summer Term starts

For questions or more information, contact us at:

(530) 242-7601

Fall 2026: New PK-3rd grade Credential by Simpson University (pending CCTC approval) is set to launch!

Program Updates & Milestones

- We are getting ready for our program review in Fall 2026. We expect updates to our current ECE certificate and adding an Early Childhood Educator 1 that will align with the new Child Development Permit Matrix from the California Teacher Credentialing office. It has been approved by our Advisory Board on October 17, 2025.
- CBE has been provided to students as a new pathway as of Fall 2025. We are learning a lot about the importance of meeting each student individually. Kate Ashbey has up to 12 students enrolled for level 1; Jeanne Veich has been working on creating more CBE courses, waiting for students to enter level 2 of the CBE pathway.
- We also will be adding a School Age Development course and a School Age Care and Curriculum Design class that will be starting in Fall 2026.



Coursework & Practicum Updates

Need lab hours? ECE 8 offers students the opportunity to earn supervised lab hours in local preschool classrooms while gaining hands-on experience in early childhood education. **NEW! Summer course (8 weeks) offered in 2026.**

Industry Partner Shout Out: ACCU-print attended our first class session of ECE 8 in Spring 2026 to complete fingerprint scans for around 30 students. This helped streamline the process and results returned quickly! Thank you, ACCU-print!



Find us
on your favorite social media platform!



SUMMER
CLASSES START
JUNE 8th

Summer Courses

ECE 1 – Human Development

ECE 2 – Child, Family, & Community

ECE 8 – Teaching Practicum for Young Children

ECE 9 – Child Growth & Development

ECE 12 – Infant Toddler Learning

ECE 15 – Child Health, Safety, & Nutrition

ECE 16 – Adult Supervision & Mentoring in ECE

ECE 17 – Principles & Practice of Teaching Young Children

ECE 20 – Intro to Curriculum

ECE 27 – Teaching Children with Special Needs

ECE 94 – ECE Work Experience Education



Spotlight Features

Mentor Teacher Spotlight – Chelsea Moreno

We are proud to highlight one of our 10 outstanding Mentor Teachers, Chelsea Moreno. As an Infant Toddler Mentor, Chelsea has made a meaningful and lasting impact on our future teachers.

Her strengths in leadership and guidance shine through in her daily work, and she is a strong advocate for her colleagues—encouraging continued education, professional growth, and teamwork. Chelsea's dedication and collaborative spirit help strengthen our program and inspire those around her.



Student Success Spotlight – Shanna Farrell

We are proud to highlight one of our dedicated ECE students, Shanna Farrell.

Traveling from the Bay Area to complete her practicum hours, she has quickly become a valued member of our program.

Her enthusiasm for learning and genuine engagement with staff and children makes her stand out.

She embraces every opportunity to grow professionally, and her dedication and positive attitude contribute to a supportive and inspiring learning environment.

Teaching & Learning Corner

The Power of Play, by Kate Ashbey, ECE Faculty

Did you know play evokes small amounts of opioid releases in the brain? Wait, did you say opioids? Yes! And guess what? These opioids actually make you smarter!

It turns out that play is one of the fastest routes to neuroplasticity, or brain growth. When we see children playing, it looks like they are having fun. What we don't see is how it enhances our brains. Typical play activities, like physical play, dramatic or role play, or any low-stakes, open-ended activity, are really "explorations in contingencies."

The "What if...?" aspects of play are what make it so beneficial for brain development. The best news is that this isn't just true for children! It turns out, adopting a playful mindset is beneficial for neuroplasticity no matter your age! If you'd like to know more, I highly recommend this podcast, which can also be viewed on YouTube:

The Power of Play: Using Play to Rewire and Improve Your Brain by Dr. Andrew Huberman, the Huberman Lab podcast.

Happy playing!

—Kate



Professional Development & Training Opportunities

- **Mentors:** Shasta College is continually recruiting Mentor Teachers in Trinity and Tehama County. If you want to be part of training teachers for the future, this is the best group to be part of. If you are interested, please visit our Shasta College website under Become a Mentor
- Both part-time and full-time faculty have been working to align their courses with the department's shared vision for consistency in Canvas. This consistency is intended to support student retention and engagement by allowing students to focus on course content rather than learning a different navigation structure for each instructor. As part of this effort, courses use a consistent blue color theme, representing Education, to create a cohesive look and feel across the department.
- **Conscious Discipline workshops:** Jeanne Veich will be attending in Fall 2026 to add to the faculty focus of providing tools on how to work with children that have big emotions.
- **ECERS-3:** Shasta College will continue using this tool in the Mentor Program to teach how to implement the third teacher in the classroom — the environment.
- **Trauma-responsive or self-care workshops:** Jeanne Veich will provide a workshop in Trinity County on August 15, 2026. She will be leaving on sabbatical for Fall 2026 to complete the K-12 grade Trainer of Trainers with Optimal Brain Integration. On January 20, training Shasta College Faculty kicked off to Spring 2026 "Teaching the Resilient: Supporting college students with multiple ACEs in the classroom."
- **DRDP 2025** is out and we are using this in our ECE 22 Care and Education of Infants and Toddlers, ECE 20 Introduction to Curriculum, ECE 60 Advanced Curriculum, and ECE 8 Practicum courses for Spring 2026.

CBE & Innovation Updates

The CBE Roadshow is on!

Now that our Competency-Based Education pathway has launched, we are taking our achievements on the road. Here's just a small list of past and present presentations:

August 15, 2025
Welcome Back Day
Competency-Based Education

September 2, 2025
WestEd presentation on CBE

November 12, 2025
CBExchange Conference
Pioneering a Path in CBE

January 20, 2026
Welcome Back Day
CBE

January 23, 2026
WestEd Community of Practice
The WHY of CBE

January 31, 2026
SLO Symposium
How CBE Transformed our thinking about student outcomes

February 27, 2026
WestEd Community of Practice
Architects of Access

March 14, 2026
League of Innovations Conference
Pioneering a Path in CBE

March 27, 2026
WestEd Community of Practice
The Nuts and Bolts of CBE

Advocacy & Policy Corner

Shasta College is pleased to introduce a new Master Teacher Pathway. Students who are currently working in the field under a credentialed teacher or a master teacher (qualified professional with a minimum of two years of experience) may now complete their required lab hours at their current worksite.

We are excited to offer this opportunity to our students, as balancing employment and coursework can be a significant barrier to educational success. The addition of required lab hours has made it difficult for some students to meet their academic goals. This new pathway removes that obstacle and allows students to progress toward completion while continuing to work in their chosen field.

A new permit matrix is being created. We suggest to all permit holders to update and apply to renew before the new matrix is released, as there will be some significant changes for mentors, teachers, and administrators.



What's Brewing in Tehama County

Spring is shaping up to be a busy and exciting season for families, educators, and our community partners across Tehama County! There are so many opportunities to connect, learn, and celebrate early childhood education.

Coming up on March 20, families and professionals are invited to the Parents' Choice Conference, offering engaging sessions and professional development opportunities from 8:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Preschool enrollment is also open, with available State Preschool spots in Red Bluff for the current and upcoming school year, and family child care applications accepted year-round.

In the arts, the Missoula Children's Theatre arrives March 16–21, culminating in performances on March 21 for students in grades K–12. Looking ahead to April, families can enjoy Cowboy Poetry on April 13, where children are encouraged to share original or recited poems.

On campus, we're excited to host a CTE Day in partnership with Red Bluff High School, giving students enrolled in our dual enrollment program a chance to experience a "day in the life" of early childhood education and explore career pathways in the field. We're also laying the groundwork—literally—for the future with the beginning of our new rock garden, symbolizing the first stones of a strong foundation for learning and growth.

Looking ahead to the Fall semester, we are thrilled to announce the launch of a growing Teachers Cohort all in person. In-person classes will include Child Growth and Development and Child, Family, and Community, supporting the next generation of early childhood educators.

So much is brewing, and we can't wait to continue building, learning, and growing together!

Wellness & Self-Care Corner

Pause • Reflect • Regulate

Slowing physical movement can support nervous system regulation and increase patience and flexibility with children. During transitions or prep time, try walking slightly slower, softening your shoulders and jaw, and using lighter pressure when wiping tables or organizing materials. Small shifts in pace can reduce stress reactivity.



Closing Message

We deeply appreciate our community partners, advisory boards, and colleagues for their continued support as we grow and learn together. In an ever-changing ECE landscape, your ideas, insights, and encouragement are invaluable.

Thank you to First 5 for the beautiful plaque and certificate recognizing our commitment to community engagement. Thank you to Simpson University for including Shasta College in the development of the PK-3 Grade Credential, the first new credential for educators in over 50 years.

And thank you to the ECE Lab Preschool for consistently striving to provide a stellar program for our community, our college students, and CAEYC. Your partnership and dedication make our shared work possible.



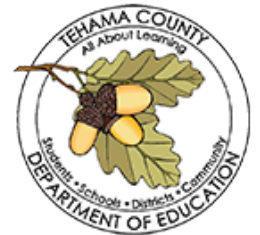
Community Partners



SHASTA
COUNTY OFFICE OF
EDUCATION



TRINITY COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION



CALIFORNIA CASCADE CHAPTER
caaeYC California Association for the
Education of Young Children

ECE 8 STUDENT TEACHER SHOWCASE

Tuesday, May 12th 2026

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Under the 1400 Shade Structure

In the event of rain, the event will be moved to the Student Center Stage

Please join our student teachers as they demonstrate what they have learned at Shasta College and celebrate their accomplishments!

Contact: Jeanne Veich, MS ed.
jveich@shastacollege.edu



Shasta College

www.shastacollege.edu

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