

Education aide

Average salary: \$49,000

Career trend: growing very strongly

Job description

Education aides support teachers by providing hands-on help to students with specific needs. They play an important part in helping children with various requirements, such as language and literacy, disabilities and other special needs, to reach their potential.

What education aides do

While the teacher is conducting the lesson, an education aide spends time with students one-on-one or in groups, helping them with a task or developing skills.

Education aides participate in class activities, teach social skills, guide individuals, observe and record students' performance, prepare lessons and lesson material or generally assist in a lesson.

Education aides may also help students with additional learning needs, including intellectual and learning disabilities, physical disabilities, challenging behaviours or those on the autism spectrum.

These students often attend regular classes with the education aide helping them understand the material by adapting it to their learning style.

For students who have more severe disabilities, aides may work with them in regular classes or in separate classes. They may help these students with basic needs, such as eating or personal hygiene or help them learn skills to find a job after school.

You'll like this job if...

You have excellent communication skills. You're good at giving instruction. You're a good team player and service oriented. You have a passion for education. You're sensitive and cooperative. You're organised and prepared. You stick to plans. You're comfortable following instruction.

Will I get a job?

- Very strong growth in this occupation is predicted, with 21,900 new jobs in Australia in the next four years, bringing the total to 114,700.

What will I earn?

- Up to \$950 median full-time weekly salary (before tax, excluding super).

Roles to look for

- Preschool aide
- Teacher's aide
- Education support worker
- Education assistant
- School learning support officer
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education worker

A day in the life...

Work as an education aide may involve these tasks:

- demonstrate, supervise and participate in activities that enhance the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of children
- prepare indoor and outdoor areas for learning and recreational activities
- assist children with intellectual, physical and behavioural difficulties
- help individual children to learn social skills
- prepare teaching aids such as handouts, copy and collate written and printed material
- distribute and collect lesson material
- provide assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students
- assist students with a background where English is a second language
- assist parents who are home-schooling their children.

VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

Certificate III in Education Support (CHC30213)

- 1 year full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 83.3%*

Certificate IV in Education Support (CHC40213)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 92.8%*

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Main employing industries

- Education and training

Other jobs you may like...

- Early childhood educator
- Out of school hours care worker

Information sources Income: Australian Government Department of Employment, Australian Jobs Report 2017, Occupation Matrix. ANZSCO ID: 2211. Earnings can vary greatly depending on the skills and experience of the worker, and the demands of the role. Job prospects: Australian Government Department of Employment 2017 employment projections to May 2022. Graduate outcomes: National Centre for Vocational Education Research. *Approximately 6 months after they completed VET.

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