



## High School Student – Stephanie

I am currently a 10th grader at Bartlett High School. In my free time, I love to babysit in my neighborhood – especially for infants and toddlers. I saw an inspiring video at my school about careers in early childhood and talked to a professional from [TECTA at Southwest Tennessee Community College](#). The video helped me see how I could turn my love of young children into a career.

The TECTA professional and the Early Childhood CTE instructor at my school helped me map out a plan:

### STEP 1

Complete [high school ECE career courses I, II, III and IV](#) during my junior and senior years. As part of that, I'll attend the onsite Preschool Lab and do some on the job learning. I might also be able to dual enroll with Southwest Tennessee Community College and get credits towards my associate degree before I even graduate from high school.

### STEP 2

At the end of my senior year, TECTA will help me complete the [Child Development Associate \(CDA\)](#) credential application; and they'll conduct the required observations of me while I'm working at the Preschool lab. They'll also pay the full cost of the CDA application fee plus any textbooks I need.

### STEP 3

I'll apply to [Southwest Tennessee Community College](#) and to the [Tennessee Promise Scholarship Program](#) which will ensure I can get my associate degree in early childhood education completely free of tuition and mandatory fees.

### STEP 6

I may decide to go ahead and pursue a bachelor's degree after that if my grades are good enough. Thanks to the [Tennessee Transfer Pathway](#) program, after getting my associate degree I can transfer credits to select universities within Tennessee and enroll as a Junior. The good news is that if I decide to pursue it, TECTA would help me pay for part of the tuition (85% of costs for up to 2 classes per semester).

### STEP 5

Once I graduate with my associate degree, I'd like to become a Lead Teacher at a childcare center or Early Head Start program; and maybe become a Program Director at some point.

### STEP 4

While going to college, I'll be able to get a good job as a teacher assistant at a childcare or preschool program because I'll have my CDA.

### STEP 7

One thing I know I'll do is to be sure to apply for the [WAGES program](#) to get salary supplements whenever I gain a new credential or degree.

**I'm excited to get started!**





## High School Student – Stephanie

Consider Stephanie’s career journey and brainstorm various outcomes in the area below.

**What are some challenges on this career journey?**

**What might be done to mitigate these challenges?**


**Other Considerations / Questions**






## Mid-Career Aspiring Elementary School Teacher – Ruby

I'm a Pre-K teaching assistant in the Clarksville–Montgomery County School System. Five years ago, I got my CDA thanks to help from [TECTA at Austin Peay State University](#). I have recently decided that I'd like to transition to a better paying role and become a Pre-K teacher, but know I'll need to get a bachelor's degree and teaching license for that.

My co-worker recently told me about Tennessee's [Grow Your Own](#) program and I'm planning to apply to the program right here in Clarksville. Here's my career pathway plan:

### STEP 1

Attend the three-year [Early Learning Teacher Residency Program](#) at Austin Peay State University. Thanks to Tennessee's [Grow Your Own](#) program I'll get a bachelor's degree for free!

### STEP 2

Also graduate with my elementary and special education certification and be eligible for full-time school teaching positions.

### STEP 3

It is especially important that as part of the program I'll continue to be paid as a teacher assistant in the school district. Plus there's an apprenticeship aspect of the program that will give me the opportunity to get deeply involved in classroom instruction and planning while learning from mentors.

**I know this will be worth it!**

### STEP 4

I'm told there's coaching and tutoring support which is comforting. I'll definitely participate in that. I was a pretty good student in high school, but it's been a while so I'm a little worried about being accepted into college, and then being successful. And it will be a lot of work doing my job during the day and going to school at night.





## Mid-Career Aspiring Elementary School Teacher – Ruby

Consider Ruby’s career journey and brainstorm various outcomes in the area below.

**What are some challenges on this career journey?**

**What might be done to mitigate these challenges?**


**Other Considerations / Questions**






## Mid-Career Parent - John

I currently live in Chattanooga. After our two daughters were born, I quit my full-time job to take care of them. My sister recently asked if I could start watching her kids as well, and I am considering opening an at-home childcare business. I already have an associate degree in English and am planning to become a licensed childcare operator.

A friend pointed me in the direction of the [Tennessee Department Human Services Pre-Licensure](#) team, and I also did some online research about steps I can take to be successful.

### STEP 1

Meet with the [DHS Pre-licensure team](#) for guidance. I heard they can also help me get an “establishment grant” to pay for start-up costs like supplies and equipment.

### STEP 2

Enroll in TECTA Orientation – a [30-hour free training](#) offered at community colleges including Chattanooga State. My hope is that TECTA will equip me with core childcare competencies.

### STEP 3

After that, I plan to work towards my [Childcare Development Associate \(CDA\)](#) credential. A friend told me that I can receive financial and technical support from TECTA to pursue it. Along the way I plan to continue to take care of my children and my sister’s children, but hope to add one or two other children shortly after receiving my CDA.

### STEP 4

On the business side of things, I know that I’ll also need to complete the Small Business Academy training offered through the [Tennessee Child Care Resource and Referral \(CCR&R\)](#) as part of getting my business licensed.

**Depending on how it all goes I may choose to grow my business further but will decide that later.**





## Mid-Career Parent - John

Consider John's career journey and brainstorm various outcomes in the area below.

<b>What are some challenges on this career journey?</b>	<b>What might be done to mitigate these challenges?</b>
<b>Other Considerations / Questions</b>	

