

Real Life 101

Teachers

A **preschool teacher** works with children turning three and four years old in classes of around twenty two, engaging them in earliest stages of schooling. A preschool teacher might have play therapy or substitute teacher background when entering a profession and is required to get credit hours to keep up their certification by attending seminars, conferences and lectures. Private schools have smaller classroom setting, smaller enrollment and more funding, but preschool teachers are in demand in public schools too. School year lasts for nine months, from August to May, and the summers offer a good time to keep up with accreditation. The job also requires prep work and research at home. One of the challenges is presenting an issue to parents if the child has a problem and needs outside therapy. But challenges aside, if you love working with children, it can be extremely rewarding to help them learn and make such an impact on their life.

The challenge for a **middle school teacher** is motivating kids to study and convincing them that learning is meaningful and connects to their lives. You need quite a lot of patience as you run into a lot of brick walls. You have to have tolerance and understanding that kids have lives outside of the classroom and different perspectives. Sense of humor and compassion will help you relate to the kids and find a way to build a bridge, when you face difficult students.

Required school:

- Bachelor's degree in the field you want to teach
- Certification in education

College professor has many responsibilities in addition to conducting lectures and seminars: reading, research and writing academic papers, class preparation and grading student papers, committee work and student activities. Required school for a professorial position includes a bachelor's degree a master's degree and, depending on the field, a PhD. Sometimes with a PhD you can just be a researcher with a university, without teaching students.

Speech pathologists work with children or adults, depending on their specialty to help people who have trouble with articulation, intonation, voice and resonance due to trauma or developmental problems. Some train actors to change their voice and speech patterns. **Pediatric speech pathologists** work with children and their families, helping them learn to speak or alternative means of communication, like sign language or pictures. Head trauma, oral motor weakness and difficulty feeding and autism are factors affecting the child's ability to communicate and learn to speak. One speech pathologist might have twenty children under his or her care, seeing them once or twice a week at schools, private practices, or outpatient clinics. Games, a ball pit, rock-climbing wall, a swing – all are used as reinforcement to memorization and to motivate children to practice. The job requires patience, intellectual aptitude, empathy and a genuine interest in helping people socially and emotionally.

School and training:

- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Clinical internships
- 350 hours of supervision