

## Office of the Governor

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### NEWS RELEASE

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Gov. Christie Whitman provides a weekly radio message to radio stations throughout the state. Each week, the message focuses on a different concern or event of interest to New Jerseyans.

This week, Gov. Whitman encourages more new Jerseyans to consider a career in early childhood education. The New Jersey Departments of Education and Human Services are looking for individuals with BAs in any field and people with AAs in early childhood education to teach three- and four-year-olds in the state's poorest school districts.

Attached is a text of the message.

The radio message can be accessed by calling the Governor's actuality line at 609-292-3249. It will be available today, beginning at noon, and will run through the weekend.

#### **Radio Message for July 16, 1999 Abbott School Districts - Early Childhood Education**

There are few more meaningful ways to spend your time than making a difference in the life of a child.

Hello. This is Governor Christie Whitman asking you to consider one of the most rewarding fields - early childhood education.

In a joint effort, the New Jersey Departments of Education and Human Services are looking for individuals with BAs in any field and people with AAs in early childhood education to get involved in our preschool education program for urban three- and four-year olds.

These years may be the most critical to a child's development. Through our new preschool program, we will help the youngest students in our Abbott Districts build the foundations that are a critical factor in later academic success.

Teaching in the Abbott Districts is a great opportunity for individuals who have earned their licenses in elementary education and are looking for a fulfilling and rewarding work experience.

If you don't have an education background, but are interested in working with children, you can still get involved. If you have a BA but no course work in early childhood education, we will work with you this summer and over the school year to prepare you to work in the classroom.

What's more, this new program will put you on track for alternate route certification and get you in on the ground floor of a new specialty degree, nursery through third grade education.

Additionally, annual scholarships of up to \$1,500 per student will be available to offset the cost of education and training.

All of the child care centers taking part in this program are independent operators under contract with a school district. Salaries and benefits will vary according to education, experience, and individual centers.

However, this program is more than a great career option. It is a unique opportunity to contribute to the success of our urban communities. And it is a wonderful way to make a difference in the life of a child.

If you are interested in this rewarding work experience you can check out our web site at [www.wnjpin.state.nj.us](http://www.wnjpin.state.nj.us) or, call (609) 588-7790 to request additional information.

Together, we will help all New Jersey's children live up to their full potential.

Thank you and have a great week.

