

Careers in Child Welfare

So you want to become a Child Welfare Professional?

Child welfare professionals are focused on improving the lives of children. They can work for a variety of social services agencies, including Child Protective Services or private, non-profit organizations.



General Requirements for Child Welfare Professionals

Most child welfare professionals are required to have at least a bachelor's degree in a field such as social work, psychology, or sociology. But ideally child welfare professionals will hold a BSW and/or an MSW.

A Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) is a four-year degree that prepares students for entry-level practice in social work. Students will learn basic skills for working with children, adolescents, parents, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

A Master's degree of Social Work (MSW) is a two-year graduate degree that will combine coursework with hands-on field experience. A master's degree is typically required for positions in schools, health, and clinical settings. Supervisory or managerial positions also usually require an advanced degree.

Helpful Tips

- ❖ Gain as much experience as possible by volunteering with various child welfare agencies & organizations
- ❖ Start your own fundraiser or volunteer program at school
- ❖ Find mentors in the field
- ❖ Conduct school research projects and write papers on areas in child welfare that interest you
- ❖ Talk with professionals and professors who work in the child welfare field
- ❖ Learn as much as you can about the field and research about child welfare – knowledge is power!

For a full listing of all accredited BSW and MSW programs, please see: <http://www.cswe.org/Accreditation/organizations.aspx>

“Children are the world’s most valuable resource and its best hope for the future”

– President John F. Kennedy

