

↑ CAREER LAUNCHER

Elementary School Teacher



“Think back. Which of your teachers do you recall? I hope the students in my classroom will remember me 20 years from now and believe I made a difference in their lives.”



- **Education needed:** Bachelor's degree in elementary education
- **Salary range:** \$30,970 – \$81,000 annually
- **Related jobs:** College instructor, employment interviewer, guidance counselor, principal

➤ What I do every day

Making learning fun is something I try to do in my classroom every day. During the school year, I plan and teach daily lessons, assign homework, prepare, administer, and grade tests, and maintain classroom discipline. I help my students understand abstract concepts, solve problems, and think for themselves. I expect them to listen, pay attention, and work with others. Twice a year, I meet formally with parents and guardians to discuss the students' progress.

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➤ The best part of my job

Young children are excited about learning. That's why I chose to be an elementary school teacher. Watching students soak up information and learn new skills motivates me.

➤ The worst part of my job

For children to do well in school, their parents need to attend parent/teacher conferences and oversee homework. It's frustrating when I have children in my class whose parents aren't involved in their education.

Elementary School Teacher

➤ What I need to know and be able to do

Elementary school teachers instruct many subjects to children of varying levels of ability, so they must know all of these subjects well. They should be sensitive, caring, intuitive, and imaginative. They should understand child development and know how children learn best. They should be willing to update their skills frequently so they can bring the latest information to their students.

➤ How I prepared to be an elementary school teacher

Playing school was one of my favorite games as a child, and my interest in becoming a teacher continued throughout my life. In college, I earned my

bachelor's degree in elementary education and received a license to teach elementary school in my state. Each summer, I take one or two continuing education courses to increase my knowledge.

➤ How I could have prepared better

Learning about child development was an important part of my degree program, but I was less prepared to deal with difficult parents. Knowing how to handle confrontational parents is a skill I am still learning.

HUMAN, PERSONAL, AND PUBLIC SERVICE

**CAREER
LAUNCHER**

Elementary School Teacher

English
Skill Check

► Skill Check 1

You are preparing to give a lesson on the five senses to your fourth grade science class. You have found that the best way to prepare is to outline the important points of your topic. Read the following paragraph and develop an outline that will enable you to give a logical, clear lesson to your students. Use the outline form below.

Our eyes contain receptors to detect light. These receptors are called rods and cones and are located on the back of the eye in an area called the retina. Sensing the environment with our eyes involves detecting light. Our eyes use retinal rods to detect dim light and retinal cones to detect bright light.

A. _____

1. _____

2. _____

B. _____

1. _____

2. _____

HUMAN, PERSONAL, AND PUBLIC SERVICE

**CAREER
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Elementary School Teacher

English
Skill Check

► Skill Check 2

Think about the teachers you have had in your life. Which ones were excellent teachers? Now think about the qualities these teachers have that make them good teachers. List several of those qualities. The first one is given as an example.

1. *Kept me interested* _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

HUMAN, PERSONAL, AND PUBLIC SERVICE

**CAREER
LAUNCHER**

**Elementary
School Teacher**

**Math
Skill Check**

► Skill Check 1

One of your students, John Patrinko, has been absent from school six out of 90 days this semester. What percentage of time was John absent? Round to the nearest whole number.

Answer: _____

HUMAN, PERSONAL, AND PUBLIC SERVICE

**CAREER
LAUNCHER**

**Elementary
School Teacher**

**Math
Skill Check**

► Skill Check 2

You have a 40-minute class to teach. If you spend 10 minutes of the time explaining an activity and $\frac{1}{4}$ of the time with students discussing the activity in small groups, how much class time is left for homework?

Answer: _____