1. Program Mission Statement

Cape Cod Community College Early Childhood Education Program is an integral member of the Early Care and Education community of Cape Cod and the Islands. The program provides certificate and Associate degree opportunities as well as ongoing professional development for pre-service and in-service teachers of young children from birth through age 7 through a combination of early childhood courses, field work, and a strong liberal arts foundation. Program graduates prepare to work in all sectors of the local child care community, including Head Start, public and private preschools, as well as state licensed group and home child care for infants, toddlers, preschool and school-age children.

The program also serves as a step on a career ladder leading to a Bachelor’s degree or higher in a variety of careers such as Early Intervention, child psychology, and teaching K-2 in a public or private school.

The program philosophy encompasses Developmentally Appropriate Practice aligned with national standards and state guidelines. Students are expected to develop a professional attitude with an understanding of global issues and a vision for the future.

2. The program mission highlights both the career and liberal arts components of the program, as well as the outcomes for both employment and transfer opportunities. The mission emphasizes our strong community connection.

3. The program is not currently accredited. The Massachusetts Department of Education has invited us to participate in a pilot project with the National
Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) on a new accreditation opportunity for two-year early childhood programs. We anticipate that this will occur during the 2005-2006 academic year.

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5. Program planning includes the program coordinator, the adjunct faculty, and the program advisory board.