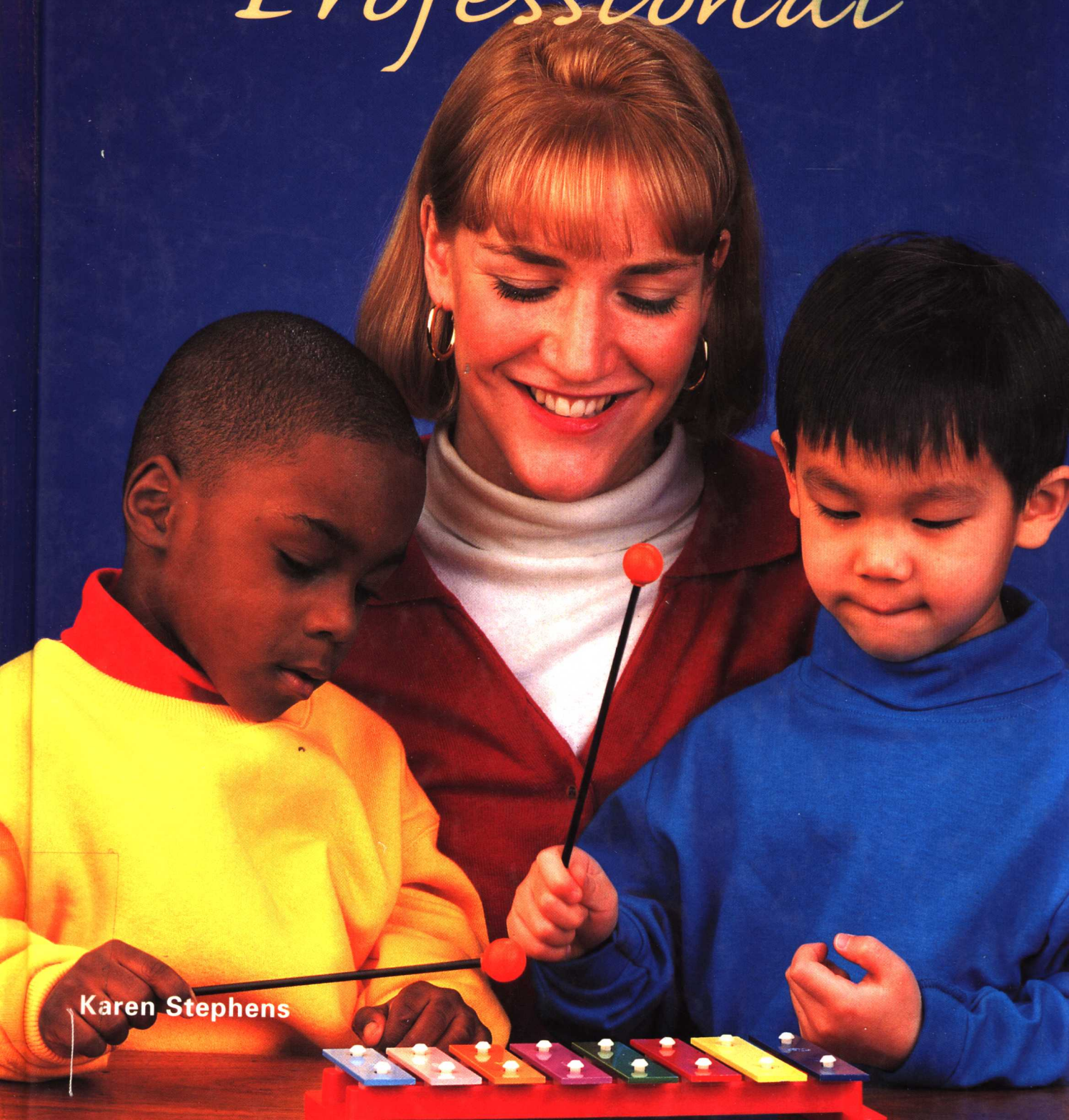


# **The** Child Care *Professional*



Karen Stephens





**The** Child Care  
*Professional*







A photograph of two young children, a girl and a boy, both wearing blue protective aprons over their clothes. The girl on the left is standing and holding a paintbrush, looking towards the camera with a smile. The boy on the right is sitting at a table, focused on painting a large piece of paper with various colors. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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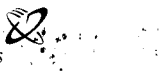
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## Unit 1

# THE CHILD CARE PROFESSION

### CHAPTER

- 1 Families and Child Care
- 2 Your Role in Child Care

### *Reflections*

"‘These children need a role model.’ That’s what they told me when I first applied for a job at the child care center in my neighborhood. I was seventeen, needed part-time work, and didn’t really care what kind of job I had. Many of the kids in the center didn’t have a father figure at home. And they wanted me to be a father figure? What experience did I have for that? Well, I’ve learned. I help out with all sorts of activities in the center, but the outdoor activities are the best. I like to keep my kids on track (now I think of them as mine). People say I set a good example for them, and they need that. This is the kind of work I want to do after graduation. Men are needed in the child care field. I’m not sticking with it for that reason, though; I’m sticking because I like it."

—Andy



# Chapter 1

## Families and Child Care

### CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

- Explain why the need for child care services has grown.
- Compare and contrast custodial, developmental, and comprehensive child care.
- Compare and contrast the different options in child care.
- Identify factors that promote quality in a child care program.
- Analyze issues in child care.



### Terms to Learn

- au pair
- child care
- curriculum
- developmentally appropriate curriculum
- early childhood
- early childhood education
- environment
- extended families
- gender role
- nanny
- nuclear family