



What is a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential

A Child Development Associate (CDA) credential is the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education (ECE) and **is a key stepping stone on the path of career advancement** in the field of ECE.

Benefits of a CDA Credential:

- Meet job requirements
- Reinforce your commitment to early childhood education
- Advance your career
- Increase your confidence
- Provide parents with peace of mind

Types of a CDA Credential:

Infant/Toddler (working with children, birth–36 months):

- To receive a CDA credential you will need to have a HS diploma or GED, enroll in and complete 120 hours of online or in-classroom training, and complete 480 hours of hands-on experience working with children, ages 0 to 36 months.
- After completing your training, you must pass an observation and competency test.
- You may receive your credential in six months!
- To enroll in classes for your CDA credential, visit <http://www.cdacouncil.org/yourcda> or call Early Childhood Connections at (605) 342-6464!

Preschool (working with children, 3-5 years):

- To receive a CDA credential you will need to have a HS diploma (or GED), enroll in and complete 120 hours of online or in classroom training, and complete 480 hours of hands-on experience working with children, ages 3-5 years.
- After completing training, you must pass an observation and competency test.
- You may receive your credential in 6 months!
- To enroll in classes for your CDA Credential, visit <http://www.cdacouncil.org/yourcda> or call Early Childhood Connections (605) 342-6464!

To learn more about obtaining your CDA credential, visit <http://www.cdacouncil.org/>.

-----Youth & Family Services may help! -----

YFS believes in investing in our employees and encourage them to further their education! We help our employees obtain a CDA credential when applicable and when funds are available. Check with your hiring supervisor!

- We will help employees pay to get a credential (*up to an \$800 savings*)!
- You can work while you learn and get your hands-on experience while getting paid!

Be Proactive! Start Planning Your Career Today!