

CHILD CARE TRAINING OVERVIEW

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Child care training is an essential component of child care licensing. The goal of the training program is to provide child care personnel with the tools necessary to ensure quality care in our child care programs. To accomplish this task, the Department mandates minimum introductory training requirements along with annual continuing education for professional development.

Introductory Child Care Training (40 Hours)

Part I (30 hours):

- State and Local Rules and Regulations
- Health, Safety, and Nutrition
- Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect
- Child Growth & Development
- Behavioral Observation and Screening

Part II (10 hours):

- Infant and Toddler Appropriate Practices
- Preschool Appropriate Practices
- School-Age Appropriate Practices
- Special Needs Appropriate Practices
- Early Literacy and Language Development (5 hrs) [online course](#)
- Basic Guidance and Discipline (5 hrs) [online course](#)
- Computer Technology for Child Care Professionals (5 hrs) [online course](#)
- Emergent Literacy for VPK Instructors (5 hrs) [online course](#)
- Early Childhood Computer Learning Centers (5 hrs) [online course](#)

Note: Child care facility personnel must begin this training within 90 days from the date of employment and complete both Part I and Part II within one year from the date the training began.

Literacy Requirement (5 Hours)

Child care personnel in licensed facilities and family child care homes must complete 0.5 continuing education unit of approved training or 5 clock hours of equivalent training, as determined by the department, in early literacy and language development of children from birth to 5 years of age one time.

For more information about this requirement and the approved literacy training programs, please visit the child care Web site.

In-Service Training (10 Hours)

- Health and safety, including universal precautions
- CPR
- First aid*
- Nutrition
- Child development (typical and atypical)
- Child transportation and safety
- Behavior management
- Working with families
- Design and use of child oriented space
- Community, health and social service resources
- Child care for multilingual children
- Working with children with disabilities in child care
- Outdoor play safety
- Guidance and Discipline
- Computer Technology
- Leadership development/program management and staff supervision
- Age appropriate lesson planning
- Homework assistance for school-age care
- Developing special interest centers/spaces and environments
- Literacy

*May be taken only once every 3 years to meet this requirement.

Note: Any of the above areas are acceptable.

Staff Credentialing Requirement

All licensed child care facilities operating 8 hours or more per week, must have *at least* one credentialed child care personnel on-site for every 20 children. Facilities operating less than 8 hours per week and those with nineteen or fewer children in care are not subject to the staff credentialing requirement.

Any of the following qualifications satisfy the staff credentialing requirement:

A. Active National Early Childhood Credential

A National Early Childhood Credential is an early childhood credential, approved by the Department and recognized by licensing authorities in at least five (5) states.

B. Formal Educational Qualifications

1. B.A., B.S., or advanced degree in **one** of the following areas:
Early Childhood Education/Child Development; Pre-Kindergarten or Primary Education; Preschool Education; Exceptional Student Education; Family and Consumer Sciences (formerly home economics or child development); Special Education; Mental Disabilities; Specific Learning Disabilities; Physically Impaired; Varying Exceptionalities; Visually Impaired; Hearing Impaired; Speech-Language Pathology; or Elementary Education with certification to teach any age, birth through 6th grade.
2. A.A. or A.S. degree in child development.
3. Associate degree, or higher, with at least 6 college credit hours in early childhood and/or child development, and 480 hours experience in a child care setting, serving children from birth to eight years of age.

C. Active Birth Through Five Florida Child Care Professional Credential (formerly the Florida Child Development Associate Equivalency Credential - CDAE)

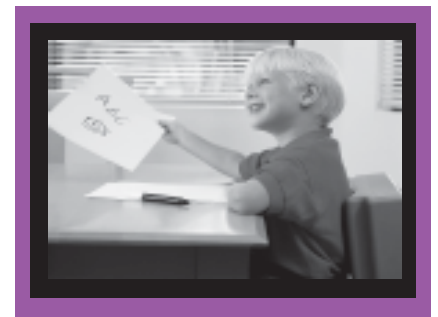
Program designed to address the specific skills and knowledge necessary to work with children ages birth through five. Recognized throughout Florida as a credential that meets or exceeds the requirements of the national Child Development Associate (CDA) credential.

D. Active School-Age Florida Child Care Professional Credential (formerly the Florida School-Age Certification)

Program designed to address the specific skills and knowledge necessary to work with school-age children.

E. Employment History Recognition Exemption

Employment History Recognition Exemptions will be accepted only if approved by the Department prior to June 30, 2006 and documented on the Staff Credential Verification (CF-FSP 5206).



Other Child Care Personnel Requirements

Include, but are not limited to, the following:

Child Care Facility Directors:

- Valid Director Credential (not applicable to facilities as defined in s. 402.302(6), F.S.)

Family Day Care Home:

- 30-Clock-Hour Family Child Care Home Training
- 10 hours annual in-service training.

Large Family Child Care Home:

- 40 hours of training (30-hour Family Child Care Home Training and one Part II, 10-hour specialized module)
- 10 hours annual in-service training.

Mildly-Ill Facility Personnel:

- 40-Clock-Hour Introductory Training
- First aid and infant/child CPR
- 10 hours annual in-service training (two of which must relate to sick children and the prevention of communicable disease.)

Competency Exams

In 2002, the Florida Legislature passed a law requiring the passage of a competency-based examination to complete the introductory child care training, which was implemented on January 1, 2004.

There are two ways to schedule an exam: (1) Register on-line (some conditions apply) or (2) Contact the Child Care Services Exam Scheduling Center toll-free at 1-888-375-EXAM. This number should only be used to schedule an exam. Questions about exams should be directed to the Child Care Training Information Center at 1-888-FLCCTIC.

Information provided by:

Child Care Program Office
1317 Winewood Blvd., Bldg. 6, Floor 3
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0700
(850) 488-4900

(Please contact your local child care licensing office for assistance.)



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