

Birth to Five CDA® Credential

Frequently Asked Questions

New CDA® Candidate Questions

I am in the process of submitting my application. Can I switch my credential setting type to Birth to Five? After the new credential setting launches on August 1, 2025, if you have not made a payment, you may switch the credential type on your application, provided you are eligible for the Birth to Five CDA®. This will require purchasing a *Birth to Five CDA® Competency Standards* book, ensuring you have the appropriate experience and education, and creating your professional portfolio.

I have completed my exam and verification visit. Can I still switch to the Birth to Five setting? Since you have already completed the setting-specific exam and verification visit, switching to the Birth to Five setting is not possible at this stage. You will need to wait for the results of your credentialing process so far. Once you receive them, you can submit a new application for the Birth to Five CDA® Credential after it launches on August 1, provided you meet all the prerequisites set out in the *Birth to Five CDA® Competency Standards* book and summarized in the chart below.

CDA Verification Visit® Questions

Who will conduct my verification visit? A CDA Professional Development (PD) Specialist™ with a Birth to Five endorsement will be the one to assess your knowledge and skills in the early childhood classroom.

Where will my verification visit take place? Your visit will take place at a state-licensed or legally exempt child development center where the PD Specialist will observe you working with at least three children in the infant-toddler range of birth to 36 months or at least six preschoolers ranging in age from three to five years old.



Is my director required to attest to my experience with all sub-age groups for the Birth to Five CDA® Credential? Yes, the director will attest to your experience across all sub-age groups on the director's permission statement.

Current CDA® Holder Questions

I already have an active CDA® Can I apply for the Birth to Five CDA® Credential?

Yes, you can apply for the Birth to Five CDA Credential. You will need to make sure you meet all eligibility requirements for the Birth to Five setting before applying.

I already have an active center-based CDA® Can I be observed working with the same group of children as in my previous setting? You will be observed working with children in a birth to five setting that's different from the one in which you were previously credentialed.

If you have a Center-Based Preschool CDA credential, you will need to be observed in the infant or toddler sub-age groups.

If you have an Infant Toddler CDA credential, you will need to be observed with the three-to-five-year-old sub-age group.

I have already created a portfolio for another setting. Can I reuse parts of my previous portfolio? Yes, you may reuse portions of your previous portfolio, but you must create a new one that addresses all three sub-age groups. So, please ensure that you develop a portfolio to meet the requirements that we set out in the *Birth to Five CDA® Competency Standards* book, soon to be released.

