

Birth to Five CDA® Credential Requirements

Requirement	Description
High School Education	Candidates must have a valid high school diploma, GED, or be a high school junior or senior enrolled in a career and technical education program in early childhood education.
Training/ Educational Hours	Candidates must complete 120 hours of coursework on the development of children aged birth to five, with at least 10 hours in each of the eight CDA® subject areas.
Work Experience	<p>Candidates must have at least 480 hours of experience working with children aged birth to five in the past three years. This experience should include at least 160 hours—as a paid employee or volunteer— in each sub-age group within a center-based setting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Sub-Age Groups</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Infants (Birth-17 months) Toddlers (18 months-36 months) Preschoolers (3-5-year-olds) </p> <p>*Center directors will confirm in the application that candidates have 480 hours of experience, with at least 160 hours in each age group.</p>



CDA Verification Visit®	Candidates will have a verification visit at a state-licensed or legally exempt child development center where the CDA Professional Development Specialist™ will observe them 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.
CDA® Professional Portfolio	Candidates will complete a professional portfolio that includes all sub-age groups within the Birth to Five setting.
CDA® Exam	CDA candidates applying for the Birth to Five CDA Credential must take the Birth to Five exam.

