



Child Development Associate Credential (CDA)

What is a CDA Credential?

The CDA Credential as the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education (ECE) and the [Council for Professional Recognition](#) states that the CDA Credential is a key stepping stone on the path of career advancement in ECE.

The Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential™ is based on a core set of competency standards, which guide early care professionals as they work toward becoming qualified teachers of young children. The Council works to ensure that the nationally-transferable CDA is a credible and valid credential, recognized by the profession as a vital part of professional development.

What Professional Development Training is required for a CDA Credential?

For an initial CDA Credential, a professional will need to complete 120 hours of early childhood education professional development, aligned to the credential they are seeking: Infant/Toddler, Preschool, Family Child Care.

To renew your CDA Credential, you will need: 4.5 CEUs, **or** a three (3) credit hour college course from an accredited college or university, **or** 45 clock hours of training in Early Childhood Education and/or Child Development. Note, this coursework/training must have been completed after the issue date of your most current CDA Credential.

In Ohio, the Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) agencies provide CDA Prep Training Courses along with other professional development opportunities which can be applied toward the 120-hour initial training requirement or 45-hour requirement for renewal. CDA Credential professional development needs to cover the growth and development of children, with no fewer than 10 training hours in each of the following eight CDA subject areas:

CDA Subject Areas

- Planning a safe and healthy learning environment
- Advancing children's physical and intellectual development
- Supporting children's social and emotional development
- Building productive relationships with families
- Managing an effective program operation
- Maintaining a commitment to professionalism
- Observing and recording children's behavior
- Understanding principles of child development and learning

When searching for training in the Ohio Professional Registry (OPR), CDA area information can be found in the training details by clicking on the training title in the Search Results. Scroll down on the Training

Details page to review all the pertinent information provided including the Topic Areas section where you can find the Child Development Associate (CDA) Content Areas of the training.

📍 TOPIC AREAS	
Target Audience	Classroom Staff / Teacher, Staff working with children with special needs, Program Administrator, Family Child Care
Age Groups related to content	Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers, Schoolagers
Core Knowledge Area	N/A
Child Development Associate Area	Principles of growth and development
Early Learning and Development Standards	Social-Emotional Development Approaches Toward Learning Physical Well-Being and Motor Development Cognitive Development and General Knowledge Language and Literacy Development

For more information on professional development opportunities in your area, contact your [local CCR&R](#).

What information do I submit to the Council documenting my training?

Every professional with a profile in the OPR has access to their own CDA Report which includes instructor submitted training.

This report includes a five-year history of training (if there is not a verified CDA Credential in the profile) or a three-year history of training for professionals with a verified CDA Credential in their profile. The CDA Report includes the title of the training, age group and categorizes the training into the CDA content areas. The CDA Report is approved and accepted by the Council.