



**ECPAC**  
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
PARTNERSHIP  
OF ADAMS COUNTY

## PATHWAYS TO BECOMING EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER QUALIFIED

(the 3 most common)

An Early Childhood Teacher is assigned responsibility for a single group of children and working under the supervision of a Director and must be at least eighteen (18) years of age.

### CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE CERTIFICATE (CDA)

120 Training hours in 8 content 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 the principles of child development and learning

480 Hours of experience

- Experience in the care and supervision of four (4) or more children less than eight (8) years of age who are not related to the individual. Satisfactory experience includes being a licensee of a Colorado Family Child Care Home, a Teacher's Aide or Teacher in a childcare center, preschool, or elementary school.
- Prepare your CDA professional portfolio
- Complete a CDA Verification Visit® and CDA® Exam

Online Resource: [Council for Professional Recognition](#)

### EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIAL 3.0

Early Childhood Professional Credential level 2 or higher

- Your education and experience translate into points across 4 component areas. Your points determine the level earned.

Component Areas

- » Formal Education
- » Ongoing Professional Development
- » Experience
- » Demonstrated Competencies

Online Resource: [Early Childhood Professional Credential 3.0 Scoresheet](#)

### EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER QUALIFICATION PATHWAY VERIFICATION WORKSHEET 7.702.45.A.1

Completion of two (2) three (3) semester credit hour courses from an accredited college or university in Early Childhood Education;

- One (1) of the courses must be either Intro to ECE, Guidance Strategies OR the Department approved Pyramid Plus Training.
- The second course can be any other ECE course including Expanding Quality in Infant-Toddler Care course (EQIT)

Twenty-one (21) months (3,185 hours) of verified experience in the care and supervision of four (4) or more children less than eight (8) years of age who are not related to the individual. Satisfactory experience includes being a licensee of a Colorado Family Child Care Home, a Teacher's Aide or Teacher in a childcare center, preschool, or elementary school.

Online Resource: [Early Childhood Teacher Qualification Pathway Verification Worksheet \(the "Rainbow Chart"\)](#)

