

Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential Overview

What is the Child Development Associate® (CDA) National Credentialing Program?

The CDA National Credentialing Program is a professional development opportunity for educators working with children ages birth to 5 years old to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and abilities in the early childhood education field. The CDA credentialing program assesses Candidates using multiple sources of evidence, including an exam, observation, and professional portfolio with resources and competency statements prepared by the Candidate. Additional information is available by visiting the Council's website at <http://www.cdacouncil.org>.

Why should I work toward a CDA credential?

The CDA Credential is a professional development opportunity for early educators at all levels of education and experience. The early childhood field is constantly evolving and it is important for educators to stay current with key education practices. The CDA is your "best first step" and a rewarding experience that offers you the opportunity to:

- Earn a professional credential that is recognized by early childhood educators nationwide & internationally.
- Improve your skills in ways that are beneficial for children and give you a sense of professional accomplishment.
- Compare your work to national standards.
- Get feedback, support, and professional guidance from people experienced in working with young children and who have a strong knowledge about early childhood education/child development.

What support is provided through Indiana AEYC?

Indiana AEYC offers scholarships for CDA Training, CDA Assessment, and CDA Renewal through the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® INDIANA and Indiana Non Formal CDA Project. T.E.A.C.H. supports credit based training, while the Non Formal CDA Project support non-credit training offered at one of the Indiana AEYC community classes (in partnership with local Adult Education Programs). In addition, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® INDIANA pays 90% of credentialing cost for both CDA assessment and renewal.

How can I learn more about CDA and available supports for my career and professional development?

To learn more about available options, eligibility, and the steps in the process, contact Indiana AEYC at PD@inaeyc.org. T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood(R) INDIANA Professional Development Advisor can talk you through the available options, answer questions about various professional development opportunities and CDA credentialing process.

How Can I find An Early Childhood Reviewer (for CDA RENEWAL?)

Indiana AEYC' Workforce Coordinators can help with resources to find local early childhood professional who can serve as an Early Childhood Reviewer for CDA Renewal. INAEYC Workforce Coordinator in your area will connect you with the regional T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® INDIANA Professional Development Advisor. To connect with team of Workforce Coordinators contact at Workforce@inaeyc.org or (317) 275-3546.

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