

Advancing Careers, Building Communities

THE CDA® CELEBRATES 45 YEARS OF CONNECTIONS

1975. The Council for Professional Recognition's first Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™ was awarded to Margaret E. Wright in Washington, D.C. With it, the Council began a legacy of elevating a workforce that pursues early childhood education as a career, not just a job.

GROWTH & IMPACT OF CDA®

More than four decades later, this internationally recognized credential that has allowed early childhood education professionals all over the world to bring their best to children ages birth to 5 years old is still transforming lives.

To date, more than **800,000** credentials have been issued, including in countries such as Panama, UAE, China and Egypt!

“The impact of the CDA® in preparing people to work with young children is quite incredible,” says Dr. Valora Washington, CEO of the Council.

“We know the long-term impact of quality early childhood education on children, but that impact has everything to do with the educator at the center of the classroom. The CDA® helps these educators bring the highest standards to their classrooms and early learning environments so that children and entire families can thrive.”

Through the CDA®, professionals working in a range of early childhood education programs — from head start and pre-K classrooms, to family child care, child care centers, high school career and technical programs and home visitor programs — gain critical skills and training that helps them meet the developmental, emotional and educational needs of those they serve.

Each year, more than 20,000 early childhood educators use the CDA® credential to:

- **Understand developmentally appropriate practices** so they can better support the children they teach and care for
- **Take the next step in their careers**, which may include becoming a lead teacher
- **Reinforce their commitment** to early childhood education as a career, not just a job
- **Increase their professional confidence** to take on additional responsibility and leadership roles

“My three-year goal,” says Bisa Lewis, a CDA Professional Development Specialist™ and teacher, “is for at least 50 percent of my Early Childhood Educator Pathway completers to earn a CDA®. It’s the ideal first step to help our students find employment in an actual profession.”

HOW THE CDA® IS EVOLVING

In early childhood education, change is a constant. Our communities change and evolve, as do the people who are working in those communities. Over the last four decades, the Council has had to pivot to respond to evolving best practices in early childhood education, advances in technology, and the growing diversity of individuals who are pursuing ECE as a career not just in the U.S., but across the globe.

Today, we remain committed to opening doors for early childhood educators of all backgrounds and languages. That's why the Council represents over 20 languages. We serve Spanish-speaking early educators and other language groups by hiring reflective staff, translating materials into culturally relevant documents, and partnering with organizations that understand diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Languages Represented by the Council

1. American Sign Language (ASL)
2. Amharic
3. Arabic
4. Chinese Mandarin
5. Farsi
6. French
7. German
8. Haitian Creole
9. Hebrew
10. Hmong
11. Korean
12. Lakota
13. Navajo
14. Polish
15. Portuguese
16. Russian
17. Salish
18. Spanish
19. Somali
20. Swahili
21. Vietnamese
22. Yiddish
23. Yup'ik

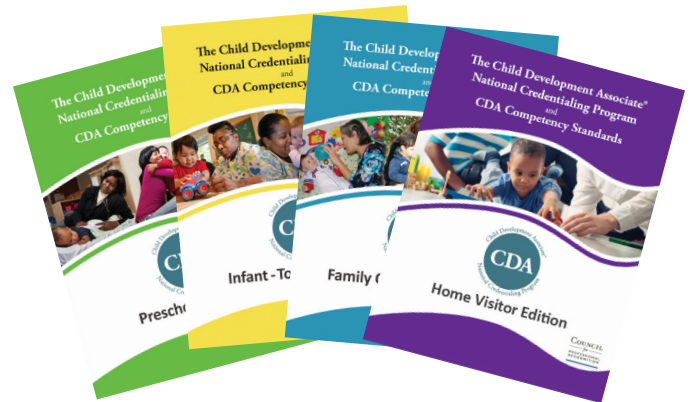
guten tag

hi

hola

bonjour

We have created credential settings that best describes your work with children. We offer CDA® credentials for the following settings: Preschool, Infant-Toddler, Family Child Care and Home Visitor.



Additionally, we have created systems to strengthen access and quality for all consumers. For example, our CDA Gold StandardSM affirms the quality of training and professional development programs across the country. Over 30 training and professional organizations have answered the call for quality assurance in training and professional development.

There's never been a better time to earn a CDA®, which can hold the key to a thriving career in early childhood education, the Council for Professional Recognition staff are ready to help you through the process so you can get back to the students and families who rely on you!

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Contact our Customer Support team toll-free at (800) 424-4310 or visit www.cdacouncil.org/contact-us

The Council for Professional Recognition promotes improved performance and recognition of professionals in the early childhood education of children ages birth to 5 years old. We work to ensure that all professional early childhood educators and caregivers meet the developmental, emotional and educational needs of our nation's youngest children.