Earn Your National Family Child Care Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™

The “Best First Step” to enhance your skills and professional development!

Did you know Family Child Care providers who participate in accreditation, credentialing and quality rating programs attract more parents to their early care setting? By participating in professional development programs, parents can have confidence in the investment you made to raise the quality of care and education for their children.

By earning your National Family Child Care (FCC) Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™ you can raise the quality of care for the young children in your care.

The Council for Professional Recognition stands ready to support you in the work that you do on behalf of young children and their families. By earning your CDA®, you will gain the skills and knowledge to deliver more high quality learning opportunities and services for young children.

To apply for the National FCC Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™, you must have:
- At least 480 hours of experience working with children ages birth-5 in a group setting
- 120 clock hours of professional education with an emphasis on children ages birth-5
- Professional Portfolio that reflects your professional development experiences
- Family questionnaires from a majority of families that have a child in your care

Upon approval of your application, you will schedule your CDA Verification Visit™ with a CDA Professional Development (PD) Specialist™ which involves:
- An on-site observation of children in your setting
- A Reflective Dialog with the CDA PD Specialist™

To complete the credentialing assessment process, you will schedule your CDA® Exam at a local Pearson Vue testing center. You can schedule the CDA® Exam before or after the CDA Verification Visit™.

To learn more about the NEW CDA® assessment process and the testing locations, visit the Council’s website at www.cdacouncil.org/the-cda-credential or call Customer Support at 202-265-9090.

Take YOUR first step today to earning your CDA® as a Family Child Care educator!