Earn Your National Infant-Toddler Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™

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

Did you know that more children under the age of three receive child care outside their home? If you work in an Early Head Start program, private child care or faith-based program, you can earn a Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™ that offers you the opportunity to continue your professional education.

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. By earning your National Infant/Toddler (I/T) Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™ you can raise the quality of care for the young children in your care.

To apply for the National I/T Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™, you must have:

- At least 480 hours of experience working with children ages birth-36 months in a group setting
- 120 clock hours of professional education with an emphasis on children ages birth-36 months
- A 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 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 an Infant and Toddler educator!