



# General Information

Council for Professional Recognition



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# About the Council for Professional Recognition

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## Mission of the Council

The Council for Professional Recognition promotes improved performance and recognition of professionals in the early childhood education of children ages 0 to 5 years old.

## Vision of the Council

The Council works to ensure that all professional early childhood educators and caregivers meet the developmental, emotional, and educational needs of our nation's youngest children.

## History of the CDA® Credential

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In the early 1970s, a group of innovative early childhood educators gathered together to think about how to improve the quality of early care and education. The concept for the CDA® Credential was born out of those meetings and was initially funded by what was then called the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families (ACYF). After several years of development, the first CDA® was awarded in 1975.

In 1985, ACYF entered into a cooperative agreement with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) for the purpose of creating a separate nonprofit organization to administer the CDA® Credential. That organization, the Council for Professional Recognition, began administering the CDA® on September 1, 1985.

Over 370,000 CDA® credentials have been awarded to date, with approximately 18,000 early childhood professionals becoming new CDAs® annually.

# Why the **CDA®** is the “Best 1st Step”



Nicole Hodock

**High School  
CDA®  
Recipient**

**Working Towards  
a BS in Early  
Childhood Education**



Cynthia Box

**CDA®  
Recipient**

**Head  
Teacher**



Teresa Rosemond

**CDA®  
Recipient**

**Earned  
BA**

**Owns her own  
Family Child  
Care Center**



Magdalena Monroy

**CDA®  
Recipient**

**Earned  
BS**

**Professional  
Development  
Specialist**



Dr. Calvin E. Moore, Jr.

**CDA®  
Recipient**

**Earned  
BS**

**Earned  
Master**

**Earned  
Doctorate**

# Why CDA®

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1. **The CDA®** brings vision and unity to the field about what professionals who work with young children should know and be able to do effectively in any setting – Center-Based Preschool, Infant & Toddler, Family Child Care and Home Visitor.
2. **The CDA®** is the only portable, reciprocal, competency-based, national credential recognized in all 50 states, territories, District of Columbia, community colleges and the United States military.
3. **The CDA®** credentialing system is based on the knowledge of the nation's leading scholars in early care and learning. Utilizing multiple sources of evidence, the CDA® national credentialing system is the only comprehensive system of its kind that recognizes the essential competencies needed by entry-level and all early childhood professionals.
4. **The CDA®** is the only credit-bearing national credential that articulates to Associate degrees in most community college systems across the nation.
5. **The CDA®** is the only national, multi-language credentialing system that assesses educators in the language of their daily work.
6. **The CDA® has revolutionized entry-level credentialing once again!** With the launch of CDA® 2.0 in June 2013, the Council has streamlined and strengthened the process, making it even more valuable as a professional development experience.

# The Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™

The Child Development Associate® (CDA) National Credentialing Program is the unique credentialing process, administered by the Council for Professional Recognition, which results in the award of the CDA® Credential. The Program uses a specific set of time-tested, research-based tools that follow the CDA® Competency Standards to determine early childhood teacher competency, based on multiple sources of evidence.

The CDA® Competency Standards are the core of the CDA® program. Candidates seeking to earn the CDA® Credential are assessed based upon the CDA® Competency Standards. These national standards are the criteria used to evaluate an early care and learning professional's performance with children, families, colleagues and their community.

The six Competency Goals establish the framework and the Standards are defined in more detail in our 13 Functional Areas. The Functional Areas describe the major tasks or functions early care professional must complete in order to carry out the Competency Standards.

The Council offers 4 different types of the CDA® Credential listed below. Every Credential is also available with Bilingual specialization.

## Child Development Associate®

### Center-Based Programs

Infant -  
Toddler  
0-36 Months

### Home-Based Programs

Family  
Child Care  
0-5 Years

Home  
Visitors  
0-5 Years

# QRIS & CDA® Defining and Advancing Quality for Early Care and Education Professionals

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## QRIS and CDA®: SHARED STRATEGIES

Typically, QRIS systems include five common elements: (1) standards, (2) accountability measures, (3) provider support, (4) financial incentives, and (5) parent/consumer education efforts. Although many States engage in quality initiatives touching on one or more of these areas. The CDA® includes all five of these elements.

**To learn more about QRIS please visit the Council website at [www.cdacouncil.org/qrис-and-cda](http://www.cdacouncil.org/qrис-and-cda)**

**On the Council's website you will find links to:**

- **QRIS and CDA®: SHARED STRATEGIES:** Introduction to how the CDA® is a comprehensive Credentialing system
- **QRIS and CDA®: SHARED PURPOSE:** Defines the details of the shared purpose between the QRIS and the CDA®.
- **QRIS and CDA®: SHARED PARTNERSHIP:** Invitation for your State to partner directly with the Council.

**For questions email the Partnership team at [partnerships@cdacouncil.org](mailto:partnerships@cdacouncil.org)**

# CDA Professional Development Specialist™ System

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The CDA Professional Development (PD) Specialist™ system involves a new role that supports CDA Verification Visits™ with Candidates. During the visit the CDA PD Specialist™ use the Council's R.O.R. Model™ to assess competency and support their growing skills as they move through the CDA® National Credentialing Program. The R.O.R. Model™ was designed for the CDA PD Specialist™ to use as a tool to help develop the ECE expertise needed to facilitate each Candidate's self-reflection and professional growth.

**To learn more about the CDA PD Specialist™  
please visit the Council website at  
[www.cdacouncil.org/pds](http://www.cdacouncil.org/pds)**

**On the Council's website you will find links to:**

- **Welcome PD Specialists:**
  - Role of the CDA PD Specialist™
  - CDA PD Specialists™ Eligibility Criteria
  - How to Become a CDA PD Specialist™
  - How to Find a CDA PD Specialist™
  - CDA PD Specialists™ Program FAQs
- **Find-A-PD Specialist Online Directory:** Directory for Candidates to use to find a CDA PD Specialist™ near their center/program.
- **Apply to become a CDA PD Specialist™:** Submit your application to become a CDA PD Specialist™ by using the online form.
- **CDA PD Specialists™ Portal:** Use the Portal to access the online training modules and to take the CDA PD Specialist™ Exam. You can only access the portal after your application has been approved. Once you become a CDA PD Specialist™ you will use the portal to get your CDA PD Specialist ID™ number, access the resource library, update your profile and submit the CDA Verification Visit™ scores. The Portal is available in Spanish for Bilingual and Monolingual CDA PD Specialists™.

**For questions email the CDA PD Specialist™ team at [PDS@cdacouncil.org](mailto:PDS@cdacouncil.org)**

# Partnering with the Council for Professional Recognition

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As a partner with the Council, there is an opportunity to establish a relationship aimed at supporting the professional development of early care and education professionals toward achieving the **Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™**. As a partner, the Council can offer assistance in the development of an action plan to successfully implement CDA® 2.0 in your respective training or educational program. We seek partnerships with Head Start and Early Head Start programs, community colleges, higher education and training organizations just to name a few.

**To learn more about Partnerships please visit the Council website at [www.cdacouncil.org/partner](http://www.cdacouncil.org/partner)**

## High School Students **CDA®** Program

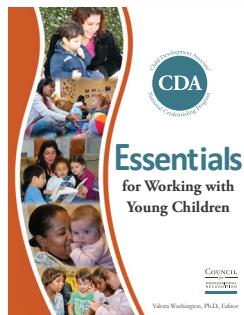
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In 2011, guided by the belief that a commitment to professionalism can begin as early as high school, the Council began allowing high school juniors and seniors enrolled in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs to earn their Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™.

**To learn more about High School CDA® program please visit the Council website at [www.cdacouncil.org/highschool-cda](http://www.cdacouncil.org/highschool-cda)**

**For questions email the Partnership team at [partnerships@cdacouncil.org](mailto:partnerships@cdacouncil.org)**

# The Council Store



## Essentials for Working with Young Children

The new *Essentials for Working with Young Children* has been strengthened and streamlined to better meet the needs of CDA® Candidates, trainers, instructors and faculty.

Essentials

ISBN: 978-0-9889650-6-5

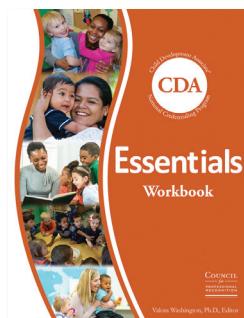
\$49

## Essentials Workbook

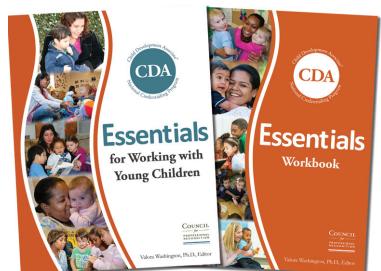
A “must-have” addition to the *Essentials for Working with Young Children* Textbook. The new *Essentials Workbook* is designed to assist Candidates and instructors prepare for the CDA® Exam and Professional Portfolio.

Essentials Workbook ISBN: 978-0-9903072-4-2

\$30



## BUNDLE IT and SAVE!



## Essentials Study Guide Bundle

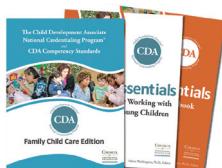
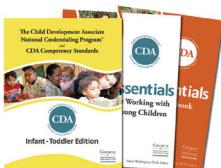
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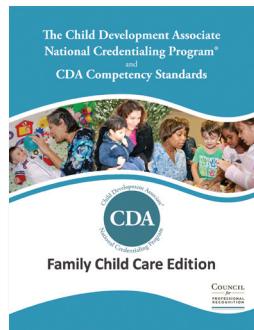
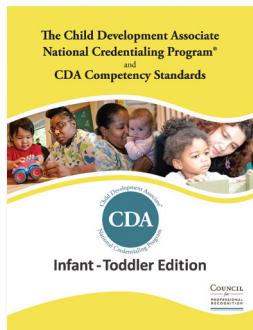
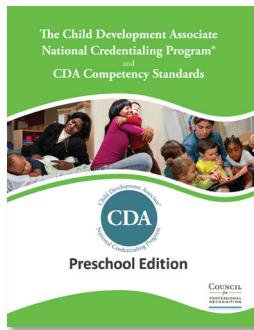
Purchase the *Essentials for Working with Young Children* Textbook with the new *Essentials Workbook*.

## CDA® Value Packages

\$95

Pick any one Competency Standards book to accompany the *Essentials for Working with Young Children* Textbook and the new *Essentials Workbook*.





## CDA® Competency Standards Books

Individuals or trainers can order the *Competency Standards* books by specialty setting. These books provide a description of the Competency Standards, the 13 CDA® Functional Areas, information on the entire CDA® credentialing process, and requirements for Candidates and the CDA Professional Development Specialist™.

Preschool ISBN: 978-0-9889650-0-3  
Infant - Toddler ISBN: 978-0-9889650-1-0  
Family Child Care ISBN: 978-0-9889650-2-7

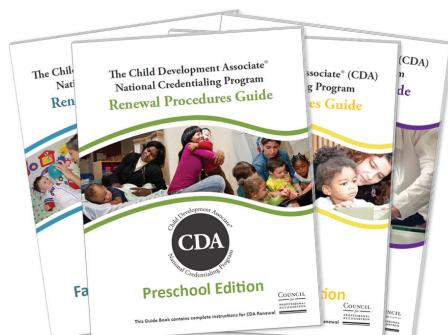
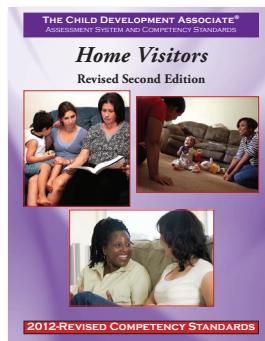
\$25

## CDA® Home Visitors Packet

The updated Home Visitor CDA® Competency Standards book is for Candidates working in home visitation with families and their children ages birth through 5 years old. Everything you need to prepare and apply for the Home Visitor CDA® Credential is now included in one book!

Home Visitor ISBN: 978-0-9820805-9

\$25



## CDA® Renewal Procedures Guide

The CDA® Renewal Procedures Guide includes all the information needed for CDA® renewal, including a description of renewal requirements and guidance for completing the renewal process. Available in Spanish.

Download for free from the Council website at [www.cdacouncil.org/renew](http://www.cdacouncil.org/renew)

FREE

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