

CDA® State Fact Sheet ALASKA



CDA® Credentials Awarded in
Alaska: **4,258***

CDA® Credential Types Awarded in
Alaska:

Infant-Toddler **1,077*** | Preschool **2,701*** |
Family Child Care **310*** | Home Visitor **175***

*Data since inception of the Council +/- .4% margin of error

Partnership

The **Alaska Head Start State Collaboration Office** is housed in the Department of Education & Early Development. Major goals of the Alaska Head Start State Collaboration Office include supporting the creation of a unified, sustainable system of early care, health, education, and support for young children and their families, and promoting positive development, improved health outcomes, and school readiness for all Alaska's children. A priority area for the Head Start State Collaboration Office is to work with local partners such as institutions of higher education and professional organizations such as the Council for Professional Recognition to assist in the development of and support for high quality career development opportunities for early childhood educators.

CDA® Training

- **National CDA Training - Alaska:** National CDA Training provides Infant-Toddler CDA and Preschool CDA training using a scenario-based method. National CDA Training also offers training for the Infant-Toddler CDA and Preschool CDA renewals.
- **Care Courses - Alaska CDA Training:** Care Courses CDA training program includes online CDA Credential Training for the Infant-Toddler CDA, Preschool CDA, Family Child Care CDA, and Home Visitor CDA and online CDA Renewal Training.
- **Successful Solutions Professional Development CDA Training:** Successful Solutions offers two Online Training Delivery Methods: self-study and Virtual Classroom. **Alaska** Child Care Courses Online Options include CDA Credential and CDA Competency training for the Infant-Toddler CDA, Preschool CDA, Family Child Care CDA, and Home Visitor CDA and CDA Renewal training.

Meet: Gina Pope – Alaska

Gina ventures boldly to places where most of us wouldn't dare go as a coordinator and developmental specialist for Tanana Chiefs Early Learning Program in Fairbanks. Her work takes her to remote villages where she works with families whose children have marked developmental delays. To reach them, she travels great distances and gets on small planes within a rural region that's about 400 by 600 square miles.

She brings this same sense of adventure to her work as a PD Specialist, a role that gives her the chance to see more of her vast state. "I have to be creative to get to the far-flung places where candidates need my services," she says. So, she's travelled by snowmobile and boat, traversed rivers and rough, frozen terrain.

She does it because she knows the value of the Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™. "The CDA helps candidates think about what they're doing, exposes them to key theories of early childhood practice and shows them the impact early learning makes on the rest of people's lives," she says. And earning her own CDA led Gina to make professional development a goal for herself and other folks. That drives her to go the extra mile—and many more.

What is the CDA®?

The Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™ is the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education (ECE) and is a key stepping-stone on the path of career advancement in ECE.

The CDA credential is based on a core set of competency standards, which guide early care professionals as they work toward becoming qualified teachers of young children. The Council works to ensure that the nationally transferable CDA is a credible and valid credential, recognized by the profession as a vital part of professional development.

CDAs have knowledge of how to put the CDA Competency Standards into practice and understanding of why those standards help children move with success from one developmental stage to another. Put simply, CDAs know how to nurture the emotional, physical, intellectual, and social development of children.

Earning the CDA credential has many advantages, including exposure to the larger community of early childhood educators. **Over 800,000 CDA credentials have been issued to date!**

Becoming a CDA is a big commitment, but one that creates confident practitioners with command of today's best practices for teaching young children.

Meet the Council

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. The Council recognizes and credentials professionals who work in all types of early care and education settings including Head Start, pre-k, infant and toddler, family child care, and home visitor programs. As a nonprofit organization, the Council sets policies and procedures for assessment and credentialing. For more information, visit www.cdacouncil.org.