

CDA® State Fact Sheet CALIFORNIA



CDA® Credentials Awarded in
California: **7,723***

CDA® Credential Types Awarded in
California:

Infant-Toddler **1,399*** | Preschool **5,025*** |
Family Child Care **1,107*** | Home Visitor **184***

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

Partnership

Effective July 1, 2021, the **California Head Start State Collaboration Office**, along with many childcare programs, was transferred from the California Department of Education Early Learning and Care Division to the California Department of Social Services. Current priorities for the California Head Start State Collaboration Office include working with State efforts to collect data regarding early childhood programs and child outcomes and supporting the expansion and access of high-quality workforce and career development opportunities for early childhood program staff by working with local partners such as institutions of higher education and professional organizations such as the Council for Professional Recognition.

CDA® Training

- **ProSolutions Training:** ProSolutions Training offers online CDA Training for the Infant-Toddler CDA, Preschool CDA, Family Child Care CDA, and Home Visitor CDA. ProSolutions also offers CDA Renewal Training for the Infant-Toddler CDA, Preschool CDA, and Family Child Care CDA.
- **Care Courses - California 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.

Meet: Darla Williams – California

“Early childhood education is my passion,” says Darla Williams, a lead teacher at Head Start in Sacramento. She has been in the field for over 20 years, and all the challenges she’s faced with children, parents and staff have never changed her mind about her choice of career. “I’m a firm believer that teaching young children is one of the most important jobs you can have,” Darla says. “So, I’m committed to providing teachers with new opportunities for education.”

One of the ways to do this is by giving early childhood teachers more chances to earn a Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™. And Darla knows the value of the credential as both a CDA holder and a PD Specialist for the Council. So, she now works to make it more available to rising teachers at her Head Start center. She also describes the benefits of the credential as a freelance blogger who reaches over 30,000 educators with new ideas for engaging young learners in the classroom. “I want to advance their knowledge of how beneficial the CDA program will be for them,” Darla says. She knows the CDA gives early childhood teachers the confidence and competence to do their very important job.

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.