

CDA® State Fact Sheet NEW JERSEY



CDA® Credentials Awarded in
New Jersey: **29,698***

CDA® Credential Types Awarded in
New Jersey:

Infant-Toddler **6,286** | Preschool **22,673** |
Family Child Care **736** | Home Visitor **86**

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

Partnership

The **New Jersey Head Start State Collaboration Office** is located in the Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood Education and its purpose is to promote partnerships between Head Start agencies, state and local governments, and the private sector to help ensure that children and their families from low-income households have access to high-quality education services. A priority area for the Head Start 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 – New Jersey:** 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.
- **Successful Solutions Professional Development CDA Training:** Successful Solutions offers two Online Training Delivery Methods: self-study and Virtual Classroom. **New Jersey** Child Care Courses Options include CDA Credential, CDA Competency, and CDA Renewal training.
- **Care Courses – New Jersey CDA Training:** Care Courses CDA training program includes online CDA Credential Training and online CDA Renewal Training.

State Scholarship Opportunities

New Jersey Child Care Information System (NJCCIS) /NJ Workforce Registry: CDA Scholarships available through the NJCCIS are for CDA Training, CDA Assessment Fee (online only), and CDA Renewal (reimbursement).

Meet: Stephanie Wendolowski - New Jersey

Back in the 1800s, Ralph Waldo Emerson advised teachers to respect the needs of individual children. That's still a premise of the Child Development Associate® (CDA) credential™ and early childhood classes like the ones Stephanie has taught high school students for 13 years at Passaic County Technical Institute in Wayne.

Stephanie has taken some of Emerson's tips, but she doesn't live in the past. "Throughout her career, which also includes serving as a PD Specialist for the Council, she has kept up with best practices in ECE and used them to make Passaic's program the best it can be.

Stephanie has a strong base to build on since her students receive intense training throughout their high school years. As seniors, they take college-level CDA courses and serve a year-long internship. "Many of our students follow through by earning their college degrees," she says. "They often become educators, and some are currently my colleagues."

These successes have inspired her to bring her students' training to the next level, so they'll become lifelong learners. As she urges them to go past their comfort zone, she likes to share Emerson's timeless advice: "Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow."

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.

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