

CDA® State Fact Sheet TENNESSEE



CDA® Credentials Awarded in
Tennessee: **19,463***

CDA® Credential Types Awarded in
Tennessee:

Infant-Toddler **4,625** | Preschool **13,464** |
Family Child Care **1,068** | Home Visitor **313**

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

Partnership

The **Tennessee Head Start State Collaboration Office** is located in the Department of Education, Division of Special Populations. The Collaboration Office's purpose is to create significant, statewide partnerships between Head Start and the state in order to meet difficult challenges of improving services for low-income children and their families. 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

- **Care Courses - Tennessee CDA Training:** Care Courses CDA training program includes online CDA Credential Training and online CDA Renewal Training.
- **ProSolutions Training - Tennessee:** ProSolutions offers online 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. **Tennessee** Child Care Courses Options include CDA Credential, CDA Competency, and CDA Renewal training.

State Scholarship Opportunities

- **Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECTA):** TECTA sponsored CDA assistance includes the CDA Credential Assessment Fee scholarship that covers the application fee.

Meet: Paige Hassel - Tennessee

Paige wears several hats as department chair of career and technical education programs and a committed high school teacher who prepares students for careers in ECE. For the past five years, she's shared her insights on what it takes to work with our youngest learners. "I start by telling students you don't do this just because you love children," she says. "You do this because you're willing to put in the hard work to help kids develop."

A great way to prepare for this demanding career is to earn a Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™, Paige says. "I like the CDA because it's hands-on, so you know what you're getting into when you pursue a career in ECE." And she has a good grasp of the credentialing process as a CDA holder, herself.

Paige also has first-hand knowledge when she talks about the value of the credential, including the diverse ways you can use it. "I encourage students to explore the things they can do with their training besides teaching in a classroom." And some have gone on to become child life specialists or help children with special needs." The CDA, as Paige knows, gives you the chance to wear a range of different hats.

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.