

What is a CDA Credential?

The Child Development Associate credential (CDA) is a national credential awarded by the **Council for Professional Recognition** to individuals who have successfully completed the CDA assessment process. Earning the CDA Credential has many advantages, including motivating caregivers toward continuing education and providing a platform for professional and career opportunities in Early Childhood Development.

Get CDA Support!

Talk with someone who can help you get started in the CDA credential process!

Kelly Mumper at CCC
(256) 362-1390
kelly.mumper@dhr.alabama.gov
Cindy Williams at GSCC
(256) 835-5429
cwilliams@gadsdenstate.edu
Gwen Ford at GSCC
(256) 549-8335
gford@gadsdenstate.edu



Financial support

Support is available for child care providers who qualify. Scholarships are available through:

- Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education: **Leadership in Child Care Scholarship Program**
Virginia Frazer
(334) 242-2965
www.dpc.edu
- Alabama Partnership for Children: **T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood @ Alabama**
Michelle Raybon (334) 271-0304
www.smartstartalabama.org
- **Council for Professional Recognition**
1-800-424-4310 or visit www.cdacouncil.org

CDA renewal

CDA credentials must be renewed within three years of the date the CDA credential was awarded. CDA renewal requires 4.5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs). Child Care Central awards CEU credit for all training sessions.



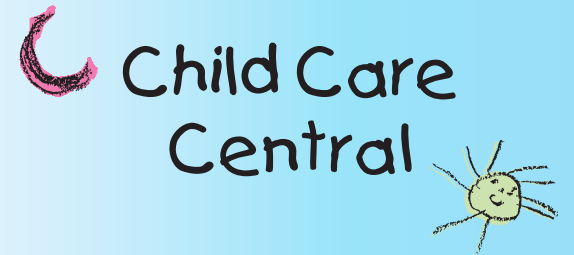
CCC, a division of TCR
Child Care Corporation,
is provided through a contract with the
Alabama Department of Human Resources.

CDA

Child Development Associate Credential

Step-by-Step

help from



and



Choose Your Direction

5 Steps Toward Earning Your CDA Credential

Step 1

Become familiar with the CDA credential

- Visit the **Council for Professional Recognition** Web site at www.cdacouncil.org

Step 2

Order an application packet

- Order an application packet from the Council for Professional Recognition. Call **800-424-4310** or visit www.cdacouncil.org
- Candidates seeking to apply for the CDA credential must meet the following eligibility requirements:

Must be 18 years of age or older
Hold high school diploma or GED
Fulfill all requirements stated in the CDA application packet



Step 3

Complete your formal education requirement

- CDA candidates must document successful completion of 120 clock hours of formal child care education (within five years from date of applying). The 120 clock hours of education include no fewer than 10 hours in each of the following content areas:

CDA 1: Planning a safe, healthy environment to invite learning

CDA 2: Steps to advance children's physical and intellectual development

CDA 3: Positive ways to support children's social and emotional development

CDA 4: Strategies to establish productive relationships with families

CDA 5: Strategies to manage an effective program operation

CDA 6: Maintaining a commitment to professionalism

CDA 7: Observing and recording children's behavior

CDA 8: Principles of child development and learning

Gadsden State Community College can help you complete your formal CDA education requirements!

Enroll in Child Development classes at Gadsden State Community College.

College courses include:

CHD 100: Introduction to Early Care and Education

CHD 201: Child Growth and Development

CHD 204: Methods and Materials for Teaching Children

CHD 212: CDA Associate Seminar

Step 4

Prepare documentation and professional resource file

- Must have at least 480 hours of experience working with children
- CDA Assessment Observation (by an advisor using the observation instrument). CCC staff is available to serve as an advisor.
- Parent Opinion Questionnaires
- Autobiographical Statement
- Six Competency Statements
- Resource Collection (17 items listed in the Competency Standards Book)

Step 5

Complete the CDA Direct Assessment Process

- Complete Direct Assessment application form (in application packet) and verify all training requirements. *The application is to be sent to the Council of Professional Recognition with the CDA Direct Assessment fee; see Financial Support on back panel.* *Note application deadlines for quarterly scheduling of assessments in the competency standards books included in the application packet.
- Prepare all documentation for the Professional Resource file as stated in the competency standards book and make arrangements with the Council to review all collected materials.
- Contact the council to arrange for the Direct Assessment Process (Early Childhood Studies Review, CDA Situational Assessment, and review of Professional Resource file).
- The Council will review the results and issue credentialing decisions based on competence in meeting the CDA Competency Goals and Functional Areas.