

Enjoy working
with young
children?

Become a
Child Development Associate

Take the best first step toward advancing
your career in early childhood education by
getting your Child Development Associate
credential (CDA).



EC LEARN

CDA

Preparation

Program

Overview

What is EC LEARN?

EC LEARN (Early Childhood Learning Education Assessment Resource Network) was established in June 2020 to provide critical early childhood education resources to families, early childhood professionals, and employers in 12 Northern Kentucky counties and 8 counties in the Salt River Region.

As a local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agency, we understand the importance of quality early learning experiences for all children and their families, as well as the critical role quality childcare plays in helping to boost the region's economy.

We train and develop early childhood professionals and educate families and employers to increase their awareness of early childhood education resources. We also help professionals earn their Child Development Associate (CDA) credential.

EC LEARN is proud that the work we do has a lifelong impact on the children, families, and early childhood professionals we serve as well as the future of the entire Northern Kentucky region.

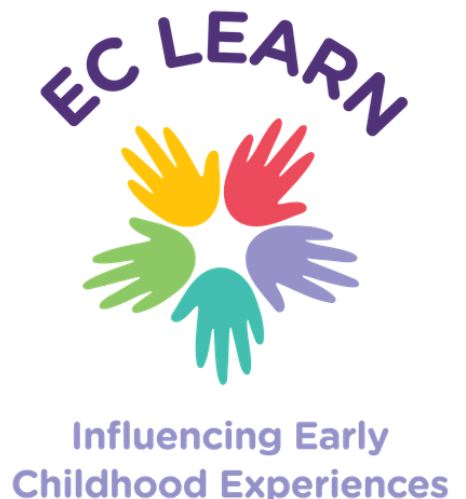
Mission: EC LEARN inspires and equips families, early childhood professionals, and community leaders to prioritize early childhood experiences for all Kentucky children.

Vision: EC LEARN believes a quality early childhood experience lays the foundation for success in school and life.

PARTNER

PROVIDE

EDUCATE



What is a CDA?

- A Child Development Associate (CDA) is a nationally recognized entry level early childhood education credential.
- Earning your CDA will help prepare you for work in a variety of settings with children ages birth to 5 years old and their families.

The Child Development Associate, or CDA, is a person who is able to meet the specific needs of children and who, with parents and other adults, works to nurture children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth in a child development framework.

The CDA® national credentialing program is a professional development opportunity designed to assess and credential early childhood education professionals using multiple sources of evidence, including an exam, observation, and a professional portfolio. By earning a CDA credential in either of the following settings, an educator demonstrates a commitment to career advancement and professionalism.

CDA Benefits

- Advance your career
- Meet job requirements
- Reinforce your commitment to early childhood education
- Provide families with peace of mind
- Understand developmentally appropriate practice
- Increase your confidence



Who administers a CDA?



"Advancing the professional development and recognition of early childhood educators."

The Council for Professional Recognition is a leader in the credentialing of early childhood educators worldwide. We ensure that candidates who earn our Child Development Associate® (CDA) credential are well prepared to foster the social, emotional, physical and cognitive growth of young children. Having a CDA® doesn't just help educators bring out the best in children. It also advances their careers and contributes to the status of our profession.

<https://www.cdacouncil.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/cdacouncil/>



CDA Eligibility Requirements

All requirements must be met before starting the application process.

EDUCATION

Any time prior to applying:

- Earn a high school diploma, GED or be enrolled as a junior or senior in a high school career and technical program in early childhood education
- Complete 120 hours of formal early childhood education training, covering the growth and development of children ages birth to 5 years, with no fewer than 10 training hours in each of the eight CDA® subject areas.

EXPERIENCE

Within the past 3 years of submitting your application:

- Obtain 480 hours of professional work experience



Choosing a Setting/Focus Age Group & Setting

Center-Based, Infant-Toddler

Works with children ages birth to 36 months

Center-Based, Preschool

Works with children ages 3 - 5 years old

Center-Based, Birth to Five

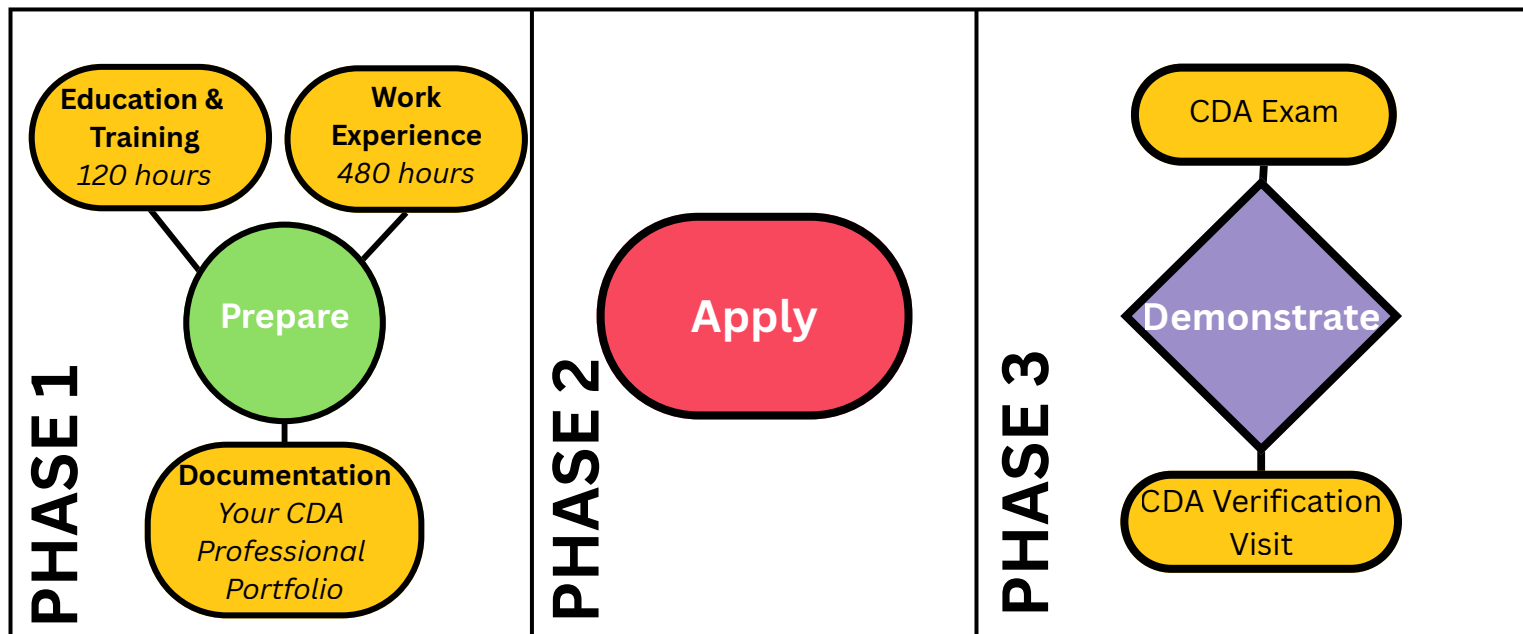
Works with children ages birth - 5 years old

Family Child Care

Works with children ages birth - 5 years old



Three Phases to Become a CDA



The Verification Visit & CDA Exam

The Verification Visit is a component of the CDA credentialing process, where the candidate will be observed working with children/families as a lead teacher in a specific age group.

During the visit, the Council-approved, CDA Professional Development (PD) Specialist™ will go to the candidate's place of work and review the candidate's Professional Portfolio, observe the candidate working with children/families, and conduct a reflective dialogue about the candidate's strengths and areas of growth. The PD Specialist will submit the evaluation and scores electronically to the Council. The CDA Verification Visit has three parts based on the R.O.R. Model which is carried out by the CDA PD Specialist to assess the Candidate's competency.

- **Review** the contents of the Candidate's Professional Portfolio (formerly the Professional Resource File), training transcripts/certificates and Family Questionnaires.
- **Observe** the Candidate working with children, recording criterion evidence where applicable.
- **Reflect** with the Candidate, focusing on the Candidate's areas of strength or growth found in the Portfolio or seen during the Observation.

The CDA Exam is a component of the credentialing process. The exam is a 65-question, computer-based exam that is taken at a local Pearson VUE testing site.

The CDA Exam questions will test the candidate's knowledge of basic early childhood best practices based on the CDA Competency Goals and the thirteen Functional Areas. Once the exam is completed, the scores are sent to the Council electronically.



<http://www.pearsonvue.com/cdaexam/>



EC LEARN CDA Curriculum

Five Focus Areas Organize our Curriculum



Professionalism



Health & Safety



How Children Learn & Develop



Intentional & Reflective Teaching



Community & Family Relationships



CDA Competency Goals and Functional Areas

Competency Standard	Functional Area
I. To establish and maintain a safe, healthy and responsive learning environment	1. Safe 2. Healthy 3. Learning Environment
II. To advance physical and intellectual competence	4. Physical 5. Cognitive 6. Communication 7. Creative
III. To support social and emotional development and to provide positive guidance	8. Self 9. Social 10. Guidance
IV. To establish positive and productive partnerships with families	11. Families
V. To ensure a well-run purposeful program responsive to participant needs	12. Program Management
VI. To maintain a commitment to professionalism	13. Professionalism



EC LEARN CDA Preparation Program

Learning Mode

All 40 sessions are LIVE synchronous meetings. The majority of our sessions are virtual using Zoom. Each semester several in-person sessions will be held to share projects, experience hands-on activities and to celebrate. However, if you can only attend virtually, we will Zoom you in or provide an independent study for those sessions.

- Course consists of two semesters (20 sessions each semester)
- Sessions occur once a week on a weekday evening
- Participants will be awarded three clock training hours for each session. For virtual sessions, participants will complete and turn in a pre-assignment prior to attending a 2-hour Zoom session from 6 - 8 pm. In-person classes will be three hours in length from 6 - 9 pm and will take place in Florence, Kentucky.

Learning
Together

Creating a
Network of
Professionals

Sharing Ideas &
Knowledge

Web-Based EC LEARN CDA Online Course

EC LEARN has created an online course using LifterLMS as a tool for managing coursework and assignments. The course can be accessed on a computer, iPad or a mobile phone at <https://www.eclearncda.org/>

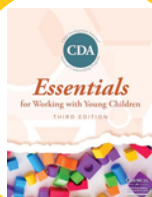
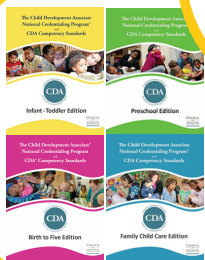
LIFTERLMS

EC LEARN
CDA Preparation Program
Welcome to Your CDA Class!
Become a
Child Development Associate

Course Textbooks

*Published by the Council for Professional Recognition
(Can be purchased through EC LEARN or the Council Bookstore)*

- Essentials for Working with Young Children, 3rd edition
- CDA Competency Standards, editions specific to your focus age-group and setting



Funding Opportunities

EC LEARN is working with a variety of community partners to help fund the program.



Currently Working in the Field of Early Childhood



Kentucky Non-College Scholarship Scholarship Eligibility Requirements

1. Be a Kentucky Resident
2. Work at one of these facilities at least 20 hours per week: State-licensed Child Care Center (Kentucky), State-Certified or Licensed Family Child Care Home (Kentucky) or Preschool Program within a Kentucky Public School District

New to the Early Childhood Field

For those participants who are not currently in the field of early education and care but hope to be in the future:

- EC LEARN collaborates with the Northern Kentucky Area Development District (NKADD) Workforce Development Project and participants may qualify for funding from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).
- EC LEARN is also an approved agency on the Kentucky Eligible Trainer Provider List which may also lead to funding for participants.

Self-Pay

If a participant is not eligible for the above funding, self-pay is an option. Participants will pay EC LEARN directly for the program. EC LEARN will work with the participant to come up with a manageable payment plan and a written agreement with EC LEARN will be signed by the participant.



Why Choose EC LEARN?

What sets EC LEARN apart from other agencies offering CDA coursework?

COURSEWORK



EXTENSIONS



RELATIONSHIPS



- Sessions designed intentionally around focus areas that integrate the 8 CDA subject areas.
- Key topics are woven throughout both semesters allowing for practice and successful implementation.
- Coursework incorporates CDA competency standards, professional portfolio work, and practice CDA exams.
- Sessions presented by quality instructors with authentic experience in the field of early childhood.
- Synchronous sessions - we learn best from sharing ideas with others.
- Mixed mode of learning - most sessions are virtual while still allowing for some in-person, hands-on experiences, project sharing and celebrations. (Accommodations are made for those who can only attend virtually.)
- Individualized instruction is a priority, and the instructor and EC LEARN staff offer support.
- One-on-one portfolio coaching is built into the program.
- Purposeful focus on building collaborative relationships with other early childhood professionals, children, families and the community.

Participant Feedback

"My experience in the CDA classes has exceeded my expectations. Seeing as I struggle with ADHD, I worried that I would struggle with the online classes. I forgot, of course, that I would be surrounded by early childhood educators - some of the most understanding and compassionate people out there. It is very clear from the way the program is set up, that they really want everyone to succeed. There are multiple resources that are provided to help make things easier to understand and therefore less overwhelming. Plus, I am surrounded by people who also love to "nerd out" over early childhood development and we love helping each other out and sharing new ideas."

Hayden, EC LEARN CDA Prep Program Participant

