



Congratulations!

You've earned your *Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential* – NOW WHAT?

Continuing down the path of professional development is your next step. Your credential is valid for 3 years and will require renewal. Review renewal requirements with the [Council for Professional Recognition](#).

UTAH'S CAREER LADDER SYSTEM



Levels 5, 6, 7 and 8

5-8



- Current demonstrated competency (Level 4)
- 40 hours or equivalent of approved training for each consecutive level in any specialized topic areas

An additional option allows for 10 of the 40 hours submitted to be participation in approved professional activities. Search [Course Catalog](#) for approved levels 5-8 classes.

Professional Activities

For Levels 5-8, 10 of the 40 hours submitted may be participation in a professional activity.

A qualifying professional activity must advance the field or early childhood in some way and be above and beyond the current job responsibilities of the professional. Professional activities must be on the approved list and appropriate documentation must be submitted. To learn more please visit the [Approved Professional Activities](#) page.

Career Ladder [Levels 9-12](#) require a degree in early childhood education, early childhood special education, elementary education, child development or equivalent from an accredited college or university.

Endorsement Courses

[Endorsements](#) are topic specific trainings offered in Career Ladder Levels 5-8. Requirements include 40 hours or equivalent of topic-specific Career Ladder approved courses. Currently the following endorsements may be earned:

- Infant and Toddler
- School Readiness
- Special Needs
- Center Director
- Family Child Care
- Guidance and Emotional Wellness
- School Age
- Relationship Touchpoints
- Theories and Best Practices
- Developing Your Child Care Business



All Career Ladder approved professional development hours can apply to both obtaining a career ladder level and an endorsement.

