

Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential

A common way to meet the requirements for Level 4 on the Utah Early Childhood Career Ladder System



THE 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. It is based on a core set of competency standards, which guide early care professionals as they work toward becoming qualified teachers of young children.

Level 1	Levels 2–3	Level 4*	Levels 5–8	Level 9	Level 10	Level 11	Level 12
Health, Safety, Basic Child Development	Areas of Child Development	CDA or Demonstrated Competency (DC)	Specialty Topics in Early Childhood and Youth Care	Associate Degree (related field)	Bachelor's Degree (related field)	Master's Degree (related field)	Doctorate Degree (related field)

**It is not necessary to complete Levels 1-3 before starting your CDA.*

Benefits of the CDA Credential:

- Advance your career
- Meet job requirements
- Increase your confidence
- Understand developmentally appropriate practice
- Provide parents with peace of mind
- Reinforce your commitment to early childhood education
- Receive transfer credit at some colleges and universities



For more information and eligibility requirements, please visit www.cdacouncil.org.

Support for Earning a CDA Credential:

CDA Consultation

Care About Childcare regional agencies provide:

- Information about eligibility, required components, and the application process
- Assistance with registering for the 120 hours of formal early childhood education training within the 8 CDA subject areas
- Support for completing the CDA Professional Portfolio
- Books and portfolio materials

CDA Cohorts

Care About Childcare regional agencies sponsor CDA Cohorts:

- Groups of candidates work through the required training hours and courses needed at the same time
- Courses may be offered free of charge
- Candidates complete classes and other components of the CDA to finish their credential within 12-18 months

CDA Scholarships

The Utah Registry for Professional Development (URPD) offers scholarships to assist with application costs:

- Full reimbursement for the cost of applying for an initial CDA credential
- Full reimbursement for the cost of applying for a credential renewal

For more information on CDA consultation, cohorts, and scholarships, please reach out to your local Care About Childcare agency.

CAC – Utah State
435-797-1552

CAC – Weber State
801-626-7837

CAC – Children's Service Society
801-355-4847

CAC – Utah Valley
801-863-8589

CAC – Five County
435-628-4843

CAC – USU Eastern
435-613-5619

The Children's Center
801-582-5534

