What is the Child Development Associate Credential (CDA)?

A Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential is issued to an individual who successfully completes required training and is able to meet the specific needs of children and parents in a child care setting.

What are the eligibility requirements for a CDA?

1. 18 years of age,
2. High school diploma or GED,
3. Complete 480 hours of experience working with children within the past five (5) years, and
4. Complete 120 hours of formal education within the past five (5) years.

What are the benefits of having a CDA?

- It can offer you the opportunity to continue your education.
- It can often help you obtain a more responsible position at your place of employment.
- It can help you gain enhanced benefits.
- It can help you find a higher paying job.

What if I don’t meet those requirements?

Begin taking your 120 hours of formal early childhood education. There are a variety of ways to take classes. Classes must be taken through an agency with expertise in the early childhood field. Any classes approved by the Nevada Registry will count.

- **College Courses.** Courses are equal to 15 training hours per 1 semester hour and can be documented by transcripts.
- **In-service Training.** Must be Nevada Registry approved and documented by certificate or letter.
- **Online Training.** CDA training available from [www.teachingstrategies.com](http://www.teachingstrategies.com).
- **Continuing Education Units (CEUs).** CEUs can be documented by transcripts or certificates.

You must also complete 480 hours of experience working with children. This is equal to 60 eight hour days or 12 five day work weeks. All classes and experience must have been completed within a five (5) year time limit. If you already work in a child care setting, document your hours. The good news is the CDA Content Areas coincide with the Nevada Core Knowledge Areas. You must have no less than ten (10) hours in each of the CDA content areas listed below.

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<th>CDA Content Areas</th>
<th>Nevada Core Knowledge Areas</th>
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<td>Principles of child development &amp; Learning</td>
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What do I do if I meet the eligibility requirements for a CDA Credential?

If you already meet the eligibility requirements, you can visit the Council for Professional Recognitions website at [www.cdacouncil.org](http://www.cdacouncil.org) and order an application packet based on the age group you work with. Once you receive your application packet, you will need to complete the requirements for the CDA Assessment. This involves documenting evidence of competence from different sources. When documentation is complete, you will need to submit your completed application, training forms and the assessment fee of $325. The CDA council will then assign a representative to complete a Verification Visit. The Verification Visit will consist of demonstrating knowledge and competence by completing an Early Childhood Studies Review and an oral interview. The Council will then make a final decision. Credentials are good for five (5) years and can be renewed for a $50 fee. More information on this process is available on the Council’s website.

Can I still participate if I do not have any training and/or experience?

Yes! The CDA Council offers the CDA Professional Preparation Program. This is a one year training program provided by the CDA Council. It is divided into three phases: Field Work, Course Work, and Final Evaluation. The cost for this program is $1500.00 and includes training and assessment fees. If you are interested in this program, you can contact the Candidate Services department at (800) 424.4310 or (202) 295.9090.

What if I can’t afford to take classes?

Contact Nevada’s local NAEYC chapter by visiting [www.nevacyc.org](http://www.nevacyc.org) for more information on scholarships and grants.