



Child Development Association Credential

A **Child Development Associate (CDA)** credential is the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education – valid in 49 states and the District of Columbia. It indicates that a provider has demonstrated the ability to meet specific needs of children and to work with parents and other adults to promote quality child care and education.

The Benefits

A CDA is an opportunity to improve your skills to meet national standards while receiving advice and support from other early childhood professionals. Earning your CDA is a rewarding process that will help you provide the best possible care and education to children.

Steps to Obtain Your CDA

- Take our quiz, on the backside, to learn what CDA program is a good fit for you
- Apply for an IdahoSTARS Training Scholarship
- Complete 120 hours of training
- Build a portfolio
- Apply for an IdahoSTARS CDA Assessment Scholarship
- Submit your application for an assessment with the Council for Professional Recognition
- Complete the CDA assessment process

Eligible Applicants

- Are 18 or older with a high school diploma or GED.
- Meet CDA competency goals in a center-based, family child care, home visitor, bilingual or special education setting.
- Have worked with children 480 hours or more in the last 5 years.
- Have completed 120 hours of formal education in the last 5 years. Those hours can come from a single program or a combination. Eligible programs include colleges and universities, junior and community colleges, early childhood education programs that sponsor training, divisions of state and federal governments, and all branches of the U.S. military.

To learn more about CDAs, visit cdacouncil.org or call 202-265-9090

Which CDA Program is right for you?

Take our quiz to learn which program could work best for your education goals and lifestyle:

1. How much time do you have to study?

- a. 0 - 2 hours a week
- b. 2 - 4 hours a week
- c. 4 - 6 hours a week
- d. 6 - 8 hours a week
- e. 8 - 10 hours a week

2. When do I have time to study?

- a. I don't have time
- b. daytime
- c. breaks and nap time
- d. nights and weekends
- e. my schedule is flexible

3. I learn best by:

- a. observation
- b. going online
- c. reading books
- d. participating and hands on
- e. attending class in person

4. People would describe me as:

- a. procrastinator, disorganized and free-spirit
- b. introvert and shy
- c. bookworm and studious
- d. independent and self-starter
- e. extrovert and social

5. My location allows me:

- a. no access to wifi or colleges
- b. access to my center's wifi only
- c. access to public wifi only
- d. access to home wifi but not colleges
- e. access to home wifi and colleges

6. My current education level is:

- a. no high school
- b. high school diploma or GED
- c. IdahoSTARS approved trainings
- d. some college
- e. college degree (not in early childhood education)

7. My education goal is to:

- a. I haven't thought about further education
- b. earn a CDA because it's required by my employer
- c. earn a CDA because I would enjoy it
- d. earn a degree, not in the early childhood education
- e. earn a degree in the early childhood education

8. My future plans are to:

- a. leave child care for other opportunities
- b. continue to teach child care, support service
- c. promotion at my child care center
- d. direct or own a child care center
- e. teach in the school district, Head Start or other early childhood profession

If you answered mostly "A" - Earning a CDA is a great way to start an early childhood education (ECE) career. You may need to review your current goals and education status before starting the CDA pathway. Contact your local IdahoSTARS Child Care Consultant to learn more.

If you answered mostly "B" - An **online CDA training program** is for you! You may have time and access to study at work. There are several CDA training options available. Contact your local IdahoSTARS Child Care Consultant to discuss the various programs.

If you answered mostly "C" - **CDA Training Programs** that utilize books are a flexible way to learn at home. The correspondence courses offer an in-depth, traditional method of study. Contact your local IdahoSTARS Child Care Consultant to learn more.

If you answered mostly "D" - Obtaining your CDA through an **online Idaho college** is a beneficial avenue for you. The courses are self-paced, convenient and provide college credit. This is a great option if you don't have much time but desire to become a child care center director or owner in the future. Contact your local IdahoSTARS Child Care Consultant to learn more about online CDA programs in Idaho.

If you answered mostly "E" - Attending **college or university courses** for your CDA is a great option and will help you work towards your higher education degree goal. You will receive CDA training in addition to credits and experience as a college student. Contact the IdahoSTARS Academic Scholarship Office to learn more about this opportunity.