

Rules Regulating Child Care Centers | Lead Teacher Qualifications

7.702.44

A. Early Childhood Teacher

1. An early childhood teacher, assigned responsibility for a single group of children and working under the supervision of a director, must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and must meet at least one of the following qualifications:
 - a. A Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university with a major area of study in one of the following areas:
 - 1) Early childhood education;
 - 2) Elementary education;
 - 3) Special education;
 - 4) Family and child development; or,
 - 5) Child psychology.
 - b. A Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university with a major area of study in any area other than those listed at Section 7.702.54, A, 1, A and additional two (2) three-semester hour early childhood education college courses with one course being either introduction to early childhood education or guidance strategies;
 - c. Current early childhood professional Credential Level III Version 2.0 as determined by the Colorado Department of Education;
 - d. A 2-year college degree, sixty (60) semester hours, in early childhood education from a regionally accredited college or university, which must include at least two (2) three-semester hour courses, one of which must be either introduction to early childhood education or guidance strategies; and at least six (6) months (910 hours) of satisfactory experience;
 - e. Completion of twelve (12) semester hours from a regionally accredited college or university, at either a two year, four year or graduate level, in each of the following subject or content areas in early childhood education and one of the three (3) semester hour courses must be either introduction to early childhood education or guidance strategies, plus nine (9) months (1,395 hours) of verified experience in the care and supervision of four (4) or more children less than six (6) years of age who are not related to the individual;
 - f. Completion of a vocational or occupational education sequence in child growth and development plus twelve (12) months (1,820 hours) of verified experience in the care and supervision of four (4) or more children less than six (6) years of age who are not related to the individual;

- g. Current certification as a Child Development Associate (CDA) or other Department-approved credential;
 - h. Completion of a course of training approved by the Department that includes training and work experience with children in a child growth and development program plus twelve (12) months (1,820 hours) of verified experience in the care and supervision of four (4) or more children less than six (6) years of age who are not related to the individual; or,
 - i. Twenty-four (24) months (3,640 hours) of verified experience in the care and supervision of four (4) or more children less than six (6) years of age who are not related to the individual. Satisfactory experience includes being a licensee of a Colorado family child care home; a teacher's aide or teacher in a child care center, preschool, or elementary school, plus either:
 - 1) A current Colorado Level I credential; or,
 - 2) Two (2) three-semester hour early childhood education college courses from a regionally accredited college or university, at either a two year, four year or graduate level, in each of the following subject or content areas with one course being either introduction to early childhood education or guidance strategies.
2. All college course grades toward early childhood teacher qualifications must be "C" or better.