



**EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER QUALIFICATION PATHWAY CHART**

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 meet at least *one (1)* of the following qualifications:

Qualification Pathway (Rule)	Verification	Experience Letter	Specific Requirements
<p>2.216.A.1.a Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctorate degree in: 1. Child Development; 2. Child Psychology; 3. Early Childhood Education; 4. Early Childhood Special Education; 5. Educational Leadership and Administration; 6. Elementary Education; 7. Family and Human Development; 8. Family Studies; or, 9. Special Education, from an accredited college or university</p>	<p>Official Transcripts</p> <p>*Sent directly from the Registrar's Office by secure email or in a sealed envelope to the <i>individual</i>. Copy of official transcript to be kept in individuals staff file</p> <p>The Department will accept unofficial transcripts printed from the student's account if the information is verifiable</p>	No additional experience is required	<p>Degree must be awarded or conferred on the transcript</p> <p>Diplomas are not accepted in place of transcripts. The Department must be able to review coursework completed during degree program</p>
<p>2.216.A.1.b A Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctorate degree from an accredited college or university with a major area of study in any area other than those listed at rule Section 2.216.A.1.a and completion of an additional two (2) three (3)- semester credit hour courses in Early Childhood Education. One (1) of the courses must be either: <i>a. Introduction to Early Childhood;</i>  <i>or</i> <i>b. Guidance Strategies -or- the Department approved Pyramid Plus Approach training</i></p>	<p>Official Transcripts</p> <p>*Sent directly from the Registrar's Office by secure email or in a sealed envelope to the <i>individual</i>. Copy of official transcript to be kept in individuals staff file</p> <p>The Department will accept unofficial transcripts printed from the student's account if the information is verifiable</p>	No additional experience is required	<p>All accepted college coursework grades must be a "C" or better</p> <p>Course/s must be equivalent to three (3) semester credit hours</p> <p>Degree must be awarded or conferred on the transcript</p> <p>Diplomas are not accepted in place of transcripts. The Department must be able to review coursework completed during degree program</p>
<p>2.216.A.1.c An Associate's degree (60 semester credit hours) from an accredited college or university in Early Childhood Education or Child Development, which must include at least two (2), three (3)-semester credit hour courses in Early Childhood Education. One (1) of the courses must be either: <i>a. Introduction to Early Childhood;</i>  <i>or</i> <i>b. Guidance Strategies -or- the Department approved Pyramid Plus Approach training</i></p>	<p>Official Transcripts</p> <p>*Sent directly from the Registrar's Office by secure email or in a sealed envelope to the <i>individual</i>. Copy of official transcript to be kept in individuals staff file</p> <p>The Department will accept unofficial transcripts printed from the student's account if the information is verifiable</p>	No additional experience is required	<p>2.216 A.2 All course grades used for the Early Childhood Teacher requirements must be a "C" or better</p> <p>Course/s must be equivalent to three (3) semester credit hours</p> <p>Degree must be awarded or conferred on the transcript</p> <p>Diplomas are not accepted in place of transcripts. The Department must be able to review coursework completed during degree program</p>





Qualification Pathway (Rule)	Verification	Experience Letter	Specific Requirements
<p>2.216.A.1.d A current Teaching License issued by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) with an endorsement in the area of Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Special Education, Early Childhood Special Education Specialist or Elementary Education</p>	<p>Copy of current CDE Teaching License with qualifying endorsement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Childhood Education,</li> <li>• Early Childhood Special Education,</li> <li>• Early Childhood Special Education Specialist,</li> <li>• Elementary Education,</li> <li>• Principal Licensure or</li> <li>• Special Education</li> </ul>	<p>No additional experience required</p>	<p>Teacher License must have a current expiration date</p> <p>Out of state Teaching Licenses are not transferable. Please contact the CDE to learn more about the Teacher Licensure process</p>
<p>2.216.A.1.e A Current Early Childhood Professional Credential level II or higher in version 3.0 as determined by the Department</p>	<p>Copy of current Early Childhood Professional Credential</p>	<p>Persons with an Early Childhood Professional Credential Level II Version 3.0 as determined by the Department; no additional experience is required</p>	<p>The Department will accept Early Childhood Professional Credentials Version 2.0 until expiration date</p>
<p>2.216.A.1.f A current Child Development Associate (CDA) issued by the CDA Council in one of the following: Center-Based, Preschool; Center-Based, Infant-Toddler; or Family Child Care; or other Department-approved credential</p>	<p>Current CDA Certificate issued by the CDA Council</p>	<p>No additional experience is required</p>	<p>CDA must be issued by the CDA Council. CDA trainings are not equivalent to a CDA. Individuals must complete all the CDA requirements <i>and</i> obtain their official documentation from the CDA Council</p> <p>A CDA requires renewal every 3 years</p>
<p>2.216.A.1.g Completion of a course of training approved by the Department and published on the Department's approval list;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Montessori Credential MACTE Accredited (AMI &amp; AMS)</li> <li>• Delta/Montrose Technical Center</li> <li>• Buell Early Childhood Leadership Institute</li> <li>• Clayton Institute / UCD</li> <li>• Stanley British Primary School / UCD</li> <li>• Emily Griffith</li> <li>• Pickens Tech</li> </ul>	<p>Current certificate, program diploma, transcript or applicable verifiable documentation</p>	<p>Nine (9) months (1,365 hours) of verified experience</p> <p>Experience is verified with an official experience letter. Verified experience must be in the care and supervision of four (4) or more children less than eight (8) years of age who are not related to the individual</p> <p>Experience verification letters must:          -Be on company letterhead          -Include the ages of children worked directly with          -State the ages of children worked directly with (separate children over age 8 from children under age 8)          -Include verifiable information such as date, date of employment, role, contact information of employer          -Be signed by the Director, Owner, HR Representative or PDIS Representative</p> <p><a href="https://www.coloradoshinespdis.com/s/early-childhood-experience-explained?language=en_US">https://www.coloradoshinespdis.com/s/early-childhood-experience-explained?language=en_US</a></p>	<p>All accepted college coursework grades must be a "C" or better</p> <p>Course/s must be equivalent to three (3) semester credit hours</p> <p>Satisfactory experience includes being a licensee of a Colorado Family Child Care Home, a Teacher's Aide or Teacher in a childcare center, preschool, or elementary school</p>
<p>2.216.A.1.h Eighteen (18) semester credit hours from an accredited college or university in Early Childhood Education. One (1) of the courses must be either:  <i>a. Introduction to Early Childhood;</i></p>	<p>Official Transcripts</p> <p>*Sent directly from the Registrar's Office by secure email or in a sealed envelope to the <i>individual</i>. Copy of official transcript to be kept in individuals staff file</p>	<p>Three (3) months (455 hours) of verified experience.</p> <p>Experience is verified with an official experience letter. Verified experience must be in the care and supervision of four (4) or more children less than eight (8) years of age who are not related to</p>	<p>All accepted college coursework grades must be a "C" or better</p> <p>Course/s must be equivalent to three (3) semester credit hours</p> <p>Satisfactory experience includes being a licensee of a Colorado Family Child</p>





<p>or <i>b. Guidance Strategies -or- the Department approved Pyramid Plus Approach training</i></p>	<p>The Department will accept unofficial transcripts printed from the student's account if the information is verifiable</p>	<p>the individual. Experience verification letters must: -Be on company letterhead -Include the ages of children worked directly with -State the ages of children worked directly with (separate children over age 8 from children under age 8) -Include verifiable information such as date, date of employment, role, contact information of employer -Be signed by the Director, Owner, HR Representative or PDIS Representative <a href="https://www.coloradoshinespdis.com/s/early-childhood-experience-explained?language=en_US">https://www.coloradoshinespdis.com/s/early-childhood-experience-explained?language=en_US</a></p>	<p>Care Home, a Teacher's Aide or Teacher in a childcare center, preschool, or elementary school</p>
Qualification Pathway (Rule)	Verification	Experience Letter	Specific Requirements
<p>2.216.A.1.i A current Early Childhood Professional Credential Level I or higher in Version 3.0 as determined by the Department OR completion of two (2) three (3) semester credit hour courses from an accredited college or university in Early Childhood Education. One (1) of the courses must be either: <i>a. Introduction to Early Childhood;</i> or <i>b. Guidance Strategies -or- the Department approved Pyramid Plus Approach training</i></p>	<p>Official Transcripts *Sent directly from the Registrar's Office by secure email or in a sealed envelope to the individual. Copy of official transcript to be kept in individuals staff file  The Department will accept unofficial transcripts printed from the student's account if the information is verifiable</p>	<p>Twenty-one (21) months (3,185 hours) of verified experience in the care and supervision of four (4) or more children less than eight (8) years of age who are not related to the individual</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 3,185 hours of verified experience must be additional and <i>not used</i> to earn the Level 1 (one) Credential</li> <li>The experience used to obtain the Colorado Level 1 (one) Credential must be attached to the credential. The additional 21 months of experience must be in the staff member's file and available for review</li> </ul>	<p>All accepted college coursework grades must be a "C" or better  Course/s must be equivalent to three (3) semester credit hours  Satisfactory experience includes being a licensee of a Colorado Family Child Care Home, a Teacher's Aide or Teacher in a childcare center, preschool, or elementary school</p>

**Additional Information:**

- All International Official Transcripts awarded outside of the United States must be evaluated for United States equivalency. The Department accepts evaluations from organizations approved by The National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES). [www.naces.org/members](http://www.naces.org/members). Unfortunately, international experience is not accepted by the Department.
- As of 06/14/2021 the Early Childhood Professional Credential (ECPC) Version 3.0 system has gone into effect. Individuals can meet Early Childhood Teacher Qualifications based on their ECPC version 3.0 Level II (2). Individuals that have an ECPC Version 2.0 may use their Credential Level III (3) until expiration.
- Child Development Associate CDA Council website: <https://www.cdacouncil.org/en/>
- Early Childhood Professional Credential- Colorado Shines PDIS: <https://www.coloradoshinespdis.com/s/login/>
- Department approved Expanding Quality in Infant Toddler Care Initiative (EQIT) is equivalent to Infant and Toddler Theory and Practice. <https://cdec.colorado.gov/expanding-quality-in-infant-toddler-care-initiative>
- Pyramid Plus Approach- Healthy Child Care Colorado: <https://healthychildcareco.org/>
- Teacher License- Colorado Department of Education: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/endorsementrequirements>
- United States Department of Education Accreditation: <https://ope.ed.gov/dapip/#/home>

