



EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER STAFF

If you work at a licensed child development center in DC, you must meet certain education requirements depending on your position. As of Dec. 20, 2023, if you meet at least one of the degree/credential pathways listed below for your position, you can meet the education requirements for your position. If you do not meet at least one of the degree/credential pathways listed for your position, help is available (see more below)!

POSITION	DEGREE/CREDENTIAL PATHWAYS
Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor’s degree in early childhood education or closely related field • Bachelor’s degree in any subject area with at least 12 credit hours in early childhood education
Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate degree (or higher) in early childhood education or a closely related field • Completion of at least 60 credit hours or an associate degree (or higher) in any subject area with at least 12 credit hours in early childhood education • Enrollment in a degree program provided that the Teacher holds a Child Development Associate and earns an associate degree (or higher) within four years of their initial date of hire as a Teacher at a child development center
Assistant Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Development Associate (CDA) • Associate degree (or higher) in any subject area • Completion of at least 60 credit hours in any subject area. • State-awarded certificate comparable to a Child Development Associate (CDA) that is approved by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) • High school diploma or equivalent, provided the individual earns a Child Development Associate (CDA) within two years of their initial date of hire as an Assistant Teacher at a child development center



GET SUPPORT!

Resources and supports are available to help you meet the education requirements!

Learn more about programs, scholarships and certifications at osse.dc.gov/eceresources or by scanning the QR code.

HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

If you are unsure of your staff type, please talk with your employer. For questions or assistance developing an individualized plan contact the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Help Desk at ECehelpdesk@dc.gov or (202) 478-5903. Support is available in various languages.

