



Montana Early Care and Education Career Path Levels

Pre-Professional

- ❖ Eight (8) hours of approved training (may include orientation or in-service training) in the last year
- ❖ Current First Aid *and* CPR certification
- ❖ Currently working in an Early Childhood setting
- ❖ Annual training required for renewal: 8 hours of approved training (if in licensed program, the 8 hours required for state licensing will count)

Level 1

- ❖ High School diploma or GED certificate
- ❖ Fifteen (15) hours of approved entry level training (may NOT include orientation) in the last year
- ❖ Current First Aid *and* CPR certification
- ❖ Minimum of 500 hours working in an Early Childhood setting
- ❖ Annual training required for renewal: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for state licensing, if applicable, for a total of 23 hours)

Level 2

- ❖ High School diploma or GED certificate
- ❖ 60 hours of approved training in the past 5 years
- ❖ Current First Aid *and* CPR certification
- ❖ Minimum of 500 hours working in an Early Childhood setting
- ❖ Annual training required for renewal: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for state licensing, if applicable, for a total of 23 hours)

Level 3

- ❖ Current national Child Development Associate (CDA) credential
–OR–
- ❖ Current National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) accreditation and 120 hours of approved training in the past 5 years
- ❖ Minimum of 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting
- ❖ Individual membership in a professional Early Childhood organization
- ❖ Annual training required for renewal: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for state licensing, if applicable, for a total of 23 hours)

Level 4

- ❖ Current national CDA credential plus at least 20 semester college credits* in Early Childhood Education/Child Development
–OR–
- ❖ Current Montana Child Care Development Specialist Apprenticeship Certificate
–OR–
- ❖ One year certificate requiring 30 college credits* in Early Childhood Education/Child Development
- ❖ Minimum of 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting
- ❖ Individual membership in a professional Early Childhood organization
- ❖ Annual training required for renewal: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for state licensing, if applicable, for a total of 23 hours)

Montana Early Care and Education Career Path Levels



Montana Early Care and Education
Career Development

Level 5

- ❖ Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education/Child Development*
–OR–
- ❖ Associate's Degree in a Social Science or Education field with at least 20 semester college credits in Early Childhood Education/Child Development*
–OR–
- ❖ Bachelor's Degree in an unrelated field with at least 20 semester college credits in Early Childhood Education/Child Development*
- ❖ 300 hours supervised teaching experience
- ❖ Minimum of 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting
- ❖ Membership in a professional Early Childhood organization
- ❖ Annual training required for renewal: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for state licensing, if applicable, for a total of 23 hours)

Level 6

- ❖ Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education/Child Development*
–OR–
- ❖ Bachelor's Degree in a Social Science or Education field with 20 semester college credits in Early Childhood Education/Child Development*
- ❖ 300 hours supervised teaching experience
- ❖ Minimum of 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting
- ❖ Individual membership in a professional Early Childhood organization
- ❖ Annual training required for renewal: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for state licensing, if applicable, for a total of 23 hours)

Level 7

- ❖ Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education/Child Development*
–OR–
- ❖ Master's Degree in a related field with emphasis in Early Childhood Education/Child Development*
- ❖ Minimum of 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting
- ❖ Individual membership in a professional Early Childhood organization
- ❖ Annual training required for renewal: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for state licensing, if applicable, for a total of 23 hours)

Level 8

- ❖ Doctorate in Early Childhood Education/Child Development*
–OR–
- ❖ Doctorate in a related field with Early Childhood Education/Child Development emphasis*
- ❖ Minimum of 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting
- ❖ Individual membership in a professional Early Childhood organization
- ❖ Annual training required for renewal: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for state licensing, if applicable, for a total of 23 hours)

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**All credits and degrees must be from regionally accredited colleges and universities.
For more information on accreditation, please visit our website at www.montana.edu/ecp.*