

2-1-1 Child Care Professional Recognition

Professional Recognition Setting Standards for Our Profession

A number of national organizations exist to promote quality in early childhood programs.



CDA - The Child Development Associate credentialing is administered by the Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition. Originally developed in 1975 to meet the staffing needs of Head Start programs, CDAs are available to everyone, and there is a growing number of people from other sectors of the field earning credentials.

CDA training can be tailored to individual needs and experiences, focusing on early childhood education in each trainee's work setting. Scholarship money is available in all states to help defray the costs. Call the CDA office to find out who is the contact in your state.

NAA - The National After School Association launched its accreditation process in 1998 and there are currently more than 550 accredited programs. The NAA standards were developed through a collaboration with the National Institute on Out-of-School Time. The standards address: human relationships, indoor environment, outdoor environment, activities, safety, health, nutrition, and administration.

NAEYC - The National Academy of Early Childhood (a division of the National Association for the Education of Young Children) has been operating since 1985. In order to establish accreditation requirements the Academy, in collaboration with hundreds of early childhood professionals, developed a list of criteria. Their standards address: administration, staffing, interaction among staff and children, curriculum, staff-parent interaction, staff qualifications and development, physical environment, health and safety, nutrition and food service and evaluation. About 150 new centers (nationwide) begin the self-study process each month.

NAFCC - In September 1988, the National Association for Family Day Care opened this accreditation program for family day care providers. This system was developed to help professionalize the field of family day care. Providers use "The Assessment Profile to measure 186 criteria, which fall into seven different categories: indoor safety, health, nutrition, interaction, indoor play environment, outdoor play environment and professional responsibility.

	CDA	NAEYC ACCREDITATION	NAFCC ACCREDITATION	NAA ACCREDITATION
Available for:	-Infant Teachers -Preschool Teachers -Family Child Care Providers	-Child Care Centers -Preschools	-Family Child Care Providers	Center based programs serving school-age children
Professional Recognition:	Individual Credential	Program Accreditation	Provider and Home Accreditation	Program Accreditation

Qualifications:	640 hours or more working with children	Operating program for 12 months or more	Primary caregiver in own home for 18 months or more	
Regulatory Requirements:	Program meets state requirements	Meet state requirements	Meet state requirements	Meet state requirements
Self-Study Process:	-Portfolio Development -Parent Observation -CDA Rep Observation	-Administrator self evaluation -Questionnaires: staff and parents -Teacher self evaluation -Classroom evaluation -Validator Observation	-Provider self evaluation -Parent Questionnaires -Parent Observation -Validator Observation	-Parent and staff questionnaires -review of policies
Evaluation Measures:	CDA Competencies and Functional Areas	-Program Description -Classroom Observation Form -Staff Questionnaire -Parent Questionnaire	-Assessment profile for Family Care -Parent Questionnaire -Provider Report	-Review of application -Review of staff and parent questionnaires -endorsement visit
Contact:	CDA 2460 16th Street, NW Washington, DC 20009 (800) 424-4310 (203) 265-9161 Fax www.cdacouncil.org	NAEYC 1509 16th Street, NW Washington, DC 20036 (800) 424-2460 (202) 328-1846 Fax www.naeyc.org	NAFCC 525 SW 5th Street Suite A Des Moines, Iowa (800) 359-3817 www.nafcc.org	NAA National After School Association 1137 Washington Street Dorchester, MA 02124 (617) 298-5012 (617) 298-5022 FAX www.naaweb.org