

Florida Early Care and Education Career Pathway

Certificates, Credentials and Degrees

Your path for professional development and career advancement

Tier 1 Certification

Complete one of these

[Child Care Facility](#) (DCF Part I and II courses and 5 clock hours of approved Early Literacy and Language Development or Emergent Literacy for VPK Instructors)

[Family Child Care Home](#) (DCF Family Child Care Home Training and 5 clock hours of approved Early Literacy and Language Development or Emergent Literacy for VPK Instructors)

[School Age](#) (DCF Part I and II courses)

[Introductory Child Care Training](#) (OEL-approved)

Tier 2 Certification

Complete one of these

[Florida Staff Credential](#)
[National Early Childhood Credential](#) (includes National Child Development Associate – CDA)

[Formal Educational Qualification](#)

[Birth through Five Child Care Credential](#) (FCCPC, ECPC or CACC)

[School-Age Child Care Credential](#) (FCCPC or SAPC)

Tier 3 Certification

Complete

[Florida Advanced Early Care and Education Credential](#) (FAECEC)

Practitioners at this level have completed Tier 2 Certification criteria.

OFFICE OF
Early Learning
LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

Tier 4 Certification

Achieve

Associate degree or higher in field **or** at least 21 Early Childhood Education/Child Development, Early Education or Youth Development credits from [US Department of Education accredited institutions](#)

Degrees/coursework in areas outlined for DCF Florida Staff Credential will be considered in field.

Tier 5 Certification

Achieve

Bachelor degree or higher in field **or** at least 36 Early Childhood Education/Child Development, Family and Child Sciences, Elementary Education or Youth Development credits from [US Department of Education accredited institutions](#)

Degrees/coursework in areas outlined for DCF Florida Staff Credential will be considered in field.

Foundational training required for all tiers

Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards Birth to Five Training **or** Florida Standards for Four-Year-Olds Training **and** Overview of the Florida Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Practitioners Training