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.

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