



## **Qualifications, Credentials, and Competencies**

### **Qualifications:**

The Colorado Department of Human Services is responsible for determining the rules and regulations for child care centers, preschools, and family child care homes. Use the following links to get information about the qualifications for each role:

**Assistant Early Childhood Teacher** (formerly Assistant Group Leader): visit the website listed below and enter the role title into the search box.

**Early Childhood Teacher** (formerly Group Leader):

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDHS-ChildYouthFam/CBON/1251583638954>

**Large Center Director Qualifications:**

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDHS-ChildYouthFam/CBON/1251583639468>

### **Early Childhood Professional Credential:**

The Early Childhood Professional Credential, established in 2000 as a voluntary, tiered system of professional achievement, is undergoing revisions as a result of The Early Learning Challenge Fund and the move toward competency-based credentials. The current system identifies 6 levels of expertise in early childhood, from no experience and ECE 101 and 102 or 103 at Level I, to a doctoral degree in a related field and 1,820 hours experience. The revision will encourage and support the career development of a broader range of early childhood professionals; allow for alternative paths that lead to expertise in early childhood; fix the gaps in requirements between Levels I & II; honor the new CDA Credential; and support the new Tiered Quality Reimbursement System. For more information visit The Colorado Department of Education Office of Professional Development at:

<http://netnewsdesk.com/ECC-OPD/index.cfm?PID=1332&ID=5454,20142,0>

### **Early Childhood Competencies:**

What good is knowledge if we can't act on it and implement it? Competencies are proof of what we know and have integrated. They identify what early childhood professionals need to do in order to provide high quality environments. The Early Childhood Professional Development Team has identified 8 competency areas, with social/emotional development, cultural competence, and children with special needs woven throughout all 8 areas. They have created a Competency Framework of 4 levels from basic to advanced degrees of mastery. The team is also creating a Professional Development Information System that will include a centralized database, tracking of early childhood professionals, and connections to other quality improvement initiatives across the state. For more information about the competencies, visit the website listed and scroll down to download PDFs:

<http://coloradoofficeofprofessionaldevelopment.org/index.cfm?PID=1332&ID=5454,21429,0>

### **FAQS about licensing:**

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDHS-ChildYouthFam/CBON/1251586020391>

**Family Child Care Home Providers:**

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDHS-ChildYouthFam/CBON/1251583639061>