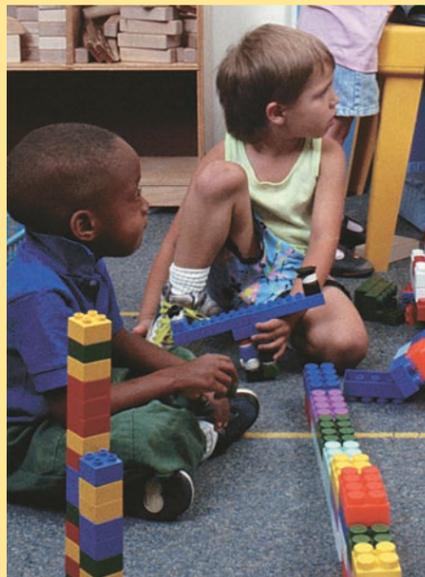


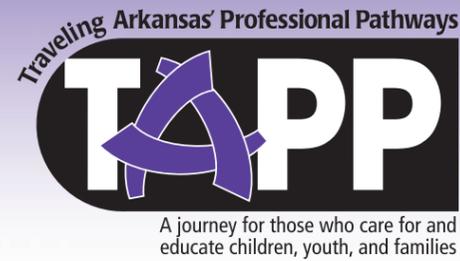
Become a Child Development Associate (CDA)

You can make a difference in the early care and education of young children by Traveling Arkansas' Professional Pathways.



10 reasons to be a CDA in Arkansas

1. National credential
2. Professional recognition
3. Connection to other professionals
4. Code of ethical conduct
5. Early care and education training
6. Enhanced competence
7. Valued employee
8. Career mobility
9. Job satisfaction
10. Pathway to continued professional development



TravelingArkansas' Professional Pathways

All Early Childhood Professionals in Arkansas value a coordinated professional development system based on research and best practice, containing high quality training experiences, allowing the development of career pathways to meet diverse needs of individuals.

What is a CDA?

A Child Development Associate is an individual who has successfully completed a CDA assessment and has been awarded the CDA Credential. She/he is able to meet the specific needs of children and works with parents and other adults to nurture children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth in a child development framework.

A CDA is an individual who has demonstrated competence in her/his ability to meet the CDA Competency Goals through her/his work in a center-based, home visitor or family child care program. In addition, an individual who has demonstrated competence in meeting bilingual CDA criteria is a CDA with a Bilingual Specialization.



CDA Credential: Who in Arkansas will benefit?

Benefits for Children

“Our goal for CDA is to provide teachers with the tools they need to lead and guide young children. When teachers learn more about child development, when they learn how to set up the environment, when they learn how to interact with children, the children benefit. It’s a win-win situation.”

Vicki Shelby, Director
School of the 21st Century, Paragould

Benefits for Families

“The CDA Program is a benefit to our children and families. Through CDA, the families are assured that staff is experienced in how to work with infants, toddlers and preschool children. Our families benefit by knowing their children are safe with competent teachers.”

Nickie Hammontree, Director
Small World Preschool, Mountain Home

Benefits for Programs

“Through CDA course work students become aware of developmentally appropriate practices. Therefore, CDAs have a better understanding of children and how to meet their needs. I see a definite connection between CDA and St. Michael’s Catholic Child Care achieving Arkansas Quality Approval.”

Sister Mary Thomas O’Keefe, Director
St. Michael’s Catholic Child Care, Hot Springs

Benefits for Communities

“As a legislator and educator I understand the importance of professional development of the child care workforce in our state. The CDA program provides the opportunities to develop competent child care professionals who support children’s cognitive development and emotional and social well being. These competent professionals benefit all of our communities.”

David Cook, Representative
District 80, Randolph and Sharp Counties

How do I become a CDA?

To become a CDA you must meet these eligibility requirements:

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Hold a high school diploma or GED
- Have 480 hours of experience working with children within the past five years
- Be able to speak, read, and write well enough to fulfill the responsibility of a CDA Candidate
- Have completed 120 clock hours of formal child care education in the eight CDA subject areas

Select a CDA Setting.

Persons wishing to seek a CDA Credential must select one of the following settings for CDA Assessment:

- **Center-based preschool** – licensed or registered child care center serving children aged 3 through 5 years
- **Center based infant/toddler setting** – licensed or registered child care center serving children aged under 3
- **Family child care setting** – licensed or registered family child care home serving children 5 years old or younger
- **Bilingual setting** – child care program that has specific goals for achieving bilingual development in children and in which two languages are consistently used in daily activities

Information about the home visitor setting and bilingual setting is available from The Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition, 1-800-424-4310.

Document and Demonstrate Competence.

This information is in reference to the center-based and family child care setting only.

- **Complete a professional resource file** – a collection of reference materials related to candidate’s work
- **Collect parent opinion questionnaires** – feed-back from parents with children in the candidate’s classroom or family child care home
- **Be observed by an advisor using the CDA Assessment Observation Instrument** – recorded observations of the candidate’s skills while working with children and families as the primary caregiver
- **Participate in an oral interview** – interview conducted by a Council-trained representative to evaluate the candidate’s skills and knowledge of good early child care practices
- **Complete a written assessment** – a two-hour multiple-choice examination administered by the Council representative

CDA Credentials must be **RENEWED** to remain current. The renewal brochure can be found on our website: www.arkansas.gov/childcare/



CDA SUBJECT AREAS

- Planning a safe, healthy learning environment.
- Steps to advance children’s physical and intellectual development.
- Positive ways to support children’s social and emotional development.
- Strategies to establish productive relationships with families.
- Strategies to manage an effective program operation.
- Maintaining a commitment to professionalism.
- Observing and recording children’s behavior.
- Principles of child growth and development.

CDA Scholarships Available

Are you interested in a CDA Credential?

Do you wish to receive a scholarship? Check out what to do.

✓ Meet these scholarship requirements.

Have been employed for at least 90 days in the licensed or registered child care program that recommends you

Have successfully completed one of the following five: (find information at www.professionalregistry.arkstate.edu)

- Child Care Orientation Training (CCOT)
- Arkansas Children’s Program Administration Orientation (ACPAO) (Director’s Orientation)
- Early Care and Education DIRECT
- Family Child Care Provider Orientation
- Secondary Child Guidance, Management and Services

✓ Review the list of approved CDA Institutions.

These approved institutions...

- are qualified to receive CDA scholarship funds
- employ experienced and knowledgeable CDA instructors
- offer college credits or CEUs for CDA course work

✓ Select an approved CDA Institution.

www.arkansas.gov/childcare/

✓ Request CDA information from the Institution.

Scholarships help pay for CDA courses and CDA assessment fees.

Are you ready to enroll in CDA course work? Check out what to do.

✓ Apply for a CDA scholarship.

To apply for a CDA Scholarship, contact the Division of Child Care and Early Education and let them know you need an application for CDA classes.

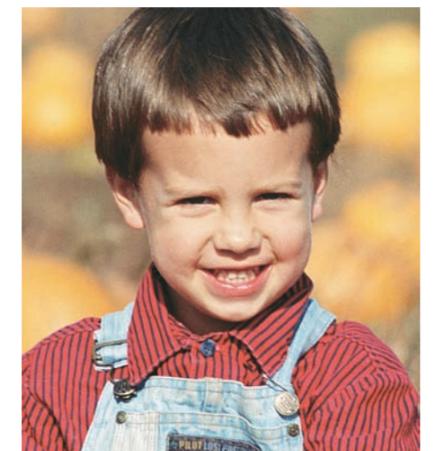
Phone: 800-445-3316

Fax: 501-682-4897

Website: www.arkansas.gov/childcare/

✓ Complete the scholarship application. Return it to...

The Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education Attention CDA
P.O. Box 1437, Slot S-160
Little Rock, AR 72203



Traveling Arkansas’ Professional Pathways

