

Florida Pathway to Early Care and Education Certificates, Credentials & Degrees



The Florida Pathway establishes a clear pathway of professional growth by providing a progression of professional development that allows an individual to build knowledge and skills in a cumulative manner from introductory training to advance level education, including obtaining credentials and post-secondary degrees. The purpose of the pathway is to promote the social, emotional, physical and cognitive development of children and to improve the knowledge and skills of the child care workforce.

Note: Some training hours may articulate into formal education credits.

Approved Foundational Training Required of all Tiers:

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

Your early care and education career pathway starts here!

Practitioners can begin their professional development journey at any level

Tier 1 Certification	<p>Represents approved Introductory Child Care Training.</p> <p>REQUIREMENTS All early care and education practitioners are required to complete one of the following options for Tier 1 Certification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child Care Facility (Florida Department of Children and Families Part I and Part II courses and 5 clock hours of approved Early Literacy and Language Development or Emergent Literacy for VPK Instructors) - Family Child Care Home (Florida Department of Children and Families Family Child Care Home Training and 5 clock hours of approved Early Literacy and Language Development or Emergent Literacy for VPK Instructors) - School Age (Florida Department of Children and Families Part I and Part II courses) - Introductory Child Care Training (Florida Office of Early Learning Approved)
Tier 2 Certification	<p>Practitioners at this level must complete one of the requirements as outlined below.</p> <p>REQUIREMENTS All early care and education practitioners are required to complete one of the following options for Tier 2 Certification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<p>Practitioners at this level have completed all Tier 2 Certification criteria and the requirements outlined below.</p> <p>REQUIREMENTS All early care and education practitioners are required to complete the following option for Tier 3 Certification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Florida Advanced Early Care and Education Credential (FAECEC).
Tier 4 Certification	<p>Practitioners at this level must complete the requirements outlined below.</p> <p>REQUIREMENTS All early care and education practitioners are required to complete the following option for Tier 4 Certification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Associate Degree (with at least 21 Early Childhood/Child Development; Elementary Education or Youth Development credits) from accredited and U.S. Department of Education recognized institutions. Degrees/coursework in the areas outlined for the DCF Florida Staff Credential will be considered in field.
Tier 5 Certification	<p>Practitioners at this level have completed one of the requirements as outlined below.</p> <p>REQUIREMENTS All early care and education practitioners are required to complete the following option for Tier 5 Certification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bachelor Degree or higher (with at least 36 Early Childhood Education/Child Development; Family and Child Sciences; Elementary Education or Youth Development credits) from accredited and U.S. Department of Education recognized institutions. <p>Degrees/coursework in the areas outlined for the DCF Florida Staff Credential will be considered in field.</p>