

Earn Your CDA for Free – Apply Today!

The Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential is the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education and is a *key stepping stone on the path of career advancement* in early childhood education. The Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential is based on a core set of competency standards, which guide early care professionals as they work toward becoming qualified teachers of young children.

You already provide a great foundation for children, you are a brain builder! We welcome you to embark on a journey that could have positive impacts for children for years to come, and just as importantly positive impacts for you and your career! Save the Children is offering CDA courses on-line for free. These are on-line self-paced courses that can accommodate any schedule. Save the Children will also cover the cost of the CDA books, and ship them right to your door! When you have finished your required coursework, Save the Children will cover the cost of the fee for your initial CDA Credential, at \$425 for online applications or \$500 for paper applications. And even better than the financial support, Save the Children is committed to providing you support and guidance along the way, cheering you on to completion!

How to become eligible for a CDA Credential?

- Currently have a high school diploma or be a high school junior or senior in an early education/child development Career and Technical Program.
- Complete 120 clock hours of professional education covering the eight CDA Subject Areas.
- Obtain 480 hours of professional work experience in a center-based setting/family home care/home visitor with children in the age of your area (infant/toddler or preschool) within 3 years of submitting application.
- Prepare your CDA Professional Portfolio. You are required to put together a collection of reference materials related to your work. Follow the detailed instructions in your Competency Standards book to prepare your CDA Professional Portfolio within 6 months of submitting application.
- Find a CDA Professional Development (PD) Specialist and schedule your observation within 6 months of submitting an application. This is a service included in the certification fee. To learn more about CDA PD Specialist's role in the CDA credentialing process visit www.cdacouncil.org

How to Enroll in the 120 Hour CDA Coursework:

1. Please send your full name, email, and state to: April Trent, atrent@savechildren.org
2. You will be given instructions on how to order the text book and workbook required to complete the CDA. This will be at no cost to you.
3. You will receive an email with a link to enroll in the free online courses.
4. Once logged in to the CDA course work, and you will be able to determine your CDA path, choosing either Infant and Toddler, or Preschool.

Once you have completed the 120 hours of coursework and you are ready to become certified, please contact April Trent atrent@savechildren.org for further instructions on how to apply for your CDA. Please reach out with any questions you might have regarding the CDA or this process. We are happy to support you on this journey! Best of luck!