

## What is the CDA?

### A Child Development Associate (CDA)

is an individual who has successfully completed the CDA assessment process and has been awarded the CDA Credential. CDAs are able to meet the specific needs of children and work with parents and other adults to nurture children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth in a child development framework.

- ◆ 120 hour preparation course for the National Child Development Associate Credential
- ◆ Content specific instruction for center-based Infant/Toddler and Preschool teachers
- ◆ Adult general education focus



## Why do I need a CDA?

Earning the CDA Credential has many advantages, including:

- ◆ motivating caregivers toward continuing education
- ◆ providing a platform for professional and career opportunities
- ◆ many view the CDA Credential as an instrument for career advancement in the early childhood care and education profession

The Council works to ensure that it is a credible and valid credential, recognized by the profession as a vital part of a coordinated system of professional development.

**Council for Professional Recognition**  
[www.cdacouncil.org](http://www.cdacouncil.org)

## What Are the Eligibility Requirements for the ECS CDA Program?

- ◆ Proof of High School Diploma or Equivalent
- ◆ Completion of **state mandated 40 hour training, plus** completion of **5 hour on-line training** in Early Literacy for Children Age Birth to Three
- ◆ Must take Test for Adult Basic Education (TABE). Your score will not disqualify you from taking the CDA course. Please call (904) 633-8388 to schedule
- ◆ 480 hours of classroom experience within the past five years working with children in a center-based program
- ◆ Completion of Professional Resource file
- ◆ Currently teaching in a Preschool or Infant/Toddler classroom
- ◆ At least 18 years of age
- ◆ Must be able to read and write well enough to fulfill the responsibilities of a CDA candidate



## How Do I Enroll in the CDA Program?

Episcopal Children's Services offers two options for students interested in earning the CDA credential

**Option I** – Classes are taught at the **Regional Training Institute for Early Childhood Education**  
100 Bell Tel Way, Ste 100, Jacksonville, Florida

- ◆ Tuesday and Thursday, 6:00pm-8:30pm
- ◆ Saturday, 9:00am–2:00pm
- ◆ Cost for training, \$395 including books \$35 non-transferable and non-refundable application fee. Course and application fee may be paid by check or money order.

## Option II - On-line/Self Study

- ◆ Must have access to a working Computer and Internet service.
- ◆ Learning is at the time and pace of the individual student.
- ◆ Cost for training is \$425 including books, \$35 non-transferable and non-refundable application fee.



## Benefits of On-line Program

The program enables students to work at their own time and pace. Students can contact their instructor via e-mail at all times. Availability of information and assignments. Students may select infant/toddler or preschool as their specialization for the National CDA Credential.



## What Resources are Available to Students?

Textbook, Caring for Preschool Children, third edition or Caring for Infants/Toddlers, second edition, written by Derry G. Koralek, Diane Trister Dodge, & Peter J. Pizzolongo  
Skill-Building Journal Assessment System & Competency booklet



## What Happens After Completing the CDA Course?

After completing 120 hour training, students will be observed as a lead teacher in a preschool or infant/toddler classroom setting.

Information from observation is sent to the Council for Professional Recognition and student will then be assigned a Council Representative to conduct a verification visit.

## **ECS CDA-Plus Classroom and On-line Programs**

These comprehensive programs prepare students to apply for the Direct Assessment visit from the Council for Professional Recognition for a National Child Development Associate Credential. Students completing all parts of the program and scoring 9 or higher on the TABE may earn up to 9 credits in articulation toward the AS degree in Early Childhood Management at FCCJ.



### **ECS CDA-Plus Classroom Program**

Call for class details and registration information. Pre-registration is required. Contact EJ Jones @ [ejones@ecs4kids.org](mailto:ejones@ecs4kids.org) Or (904) 726-1500 ext. 282



### **ECS CDA-Plus**

#### **On-line Program**

Call for class details and registration information. Pre-registration is required. Contact Linda Hockenberry at: [lhockenberry@ecs4kids.org](mailto:lhockenberry@ecs4kids.org) or (904) 726-1500 ext. 237



### **Is There Financial Aid Available?**

Scholarships may be available through

- ◆ Episcopal Children's Services  
[www.ecs4kids.org](http://www.ecs4kids.org)
- ◆ Jacksonville Children's Commission-  
[coj.net/Departments/  
Childrens+Commission](http://coj.net/Departments/Childrens+Commission)
- ◆ Early Learning Coalition of Duval  
[www.elcofduval.org](http://www.elcofduval.org)

### **How long is a CDA valid for?**

3 years from date of award, after which it may be renewed for 5 year periods.



### **Can I teach Voluntary Pre-K with a CDA?**

Yes, any lead teacher must hold at a minimum a current Florida CDAE or National CDA



### **Requirement for Early Learning Programs**

Completion of State mandated training plus Department of Children & Families approved Early Literacy and Language Development program. For information regarding training requirements to work in a licensed child care facility in Florida visit [www.myflorida.com/childcare/training](http://www.myflorida.com/childcare/training)



### **Where to find information on CDA and other trainings:**

Northeast Florida Training

[nefltraining.org](http://nefltraining.org)  
or  
[ecs4kids.org](http://ecs4kids.org)



*Funded in whole or in part by the  
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Episcopal Children's Services

## **Child Development Associate-Plus (CDA) Program**



**GET  
ON THE  
RIGHT  
TRACK!**

*Better Lives Start with Better Beginnings.*