



montana early childhood project

The Montana Career Path: A Framework for Professional Development in Early Childhood Education

Apply to The Practitioner Registry at www.mtecp.org to be certified at one of these 11 levels.

Early Childhood Practitioner

- ◆ Eight (8) hours of approved training (may include orientation or in-service training) in the last year
- ◆ Current First Aid **and** CPR certification
- ◆ Currently working in an Early Childhood setting**
- ◆ Annual training required for renewal: 8 hours of approved training (if in licensed program, the 8 hours required for state licensing will count)

Level 1

- ◆ High School diploma or GED certificate
- ◆ Fifteen (15) hours of approved entry level training (may NOT include orientation) in the last year
- ◆ Current First Aid **and** CPR certification
- ◆ Minimum of 500 hours working in an Early Childhood setting**
- ◆ Annual training required for renewal: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for state licensing, if applicable, for a total of 23 hours)

Level 2

- ◆ High School diploma or GED certificate
- ◆ 60 hours of approved training in the past 5 years
- ◆ Current First Aid **and** CPR certification
- ◆ Minimum of 500 hours working in an Early Childhood setting**
- ◆ Annual training required for renewal: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for state licensing, if applicable, for a total of 23 hours)

Level 3

- ◆ Current national Child Development Associate (CDA) credential
- ◆ **-OR-**
- ◆ Current National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) accreditation and 120 hours of approved training in the past 5 years
- ◆ Minimum of 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting**
- ◆ Annual training required for renewal: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for state licensing, if applicable, for a total of 23 hours)

Level 4 Certification

- ◆ Current national CDA credential plus at least 20 semester college credits* in Early Childhood Education/Child Development
- ◆ **-OR-**
- ◆ Current Montana Child Care Development Specialist Apprenticeship Certificate (college coursework required)
- ◆ **-OR-**
- ◆ One year certificate requiring 30 college credits* in Early Childhood Education/Child Development
- ◆ Minimum of 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting**
- ◆ Annual training required for renewal: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for state licensing, if applicable, for a total of 23 hours)

Level 5 Certification

- ◆ Associate's Degree with at least 20 semester college credits in Early Childhood Education/Child Development*
- ◆ 300 hours supervised teaching experience
- ◆ Minimum of 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting**
- ◆ Annual training required for renewal: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for state licensing, if applicable, for a total of 23 hours)

Level 6 Certification

- ◆ Bachelor's Degree with at least 20 semester college credits in Early Childhood Education/Child Development*
- ◆ 300 hours supervised teaching experience
- ◆ Minimum of 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting**
- ◆ Annual training required for renewal: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for state licensing, if applicable, for a total of 23 hours)

Level 7 Certification

- ◆ Bachelor's Degree with an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education OR a minor in Early Childhood Education
- ◆ 300 hours supervised teaching experience
- ◆ Minimum of 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting**
- ◆ Annual training required for renewal: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for state licensing, if applicable, for a total of 23 hours)

Level 8 Certification

- ◆ Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education/Child Development*
- ◆ 300 hours supervised teaching experience
- ◆ Minimum of 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting**
- ◆ Annual training required for renewal: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for state licensing, if applicable, for a total of 23 hours)

Level 9 Certification

- ◆ Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education/Child Development*
- ◆ **-OR-**
- ◆ Master's Degree in a related field with emphasis in Early Childhood Education/Child Development*
- ◆ Minimum of 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting**
- ◆ Annual training required for renewal: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for state licensing, if applicable, for a total of 23 hours)

Level 10 Certification

- ◆ Doctorate in Early Childhood Education/Child Development*
- ◆ **-OR-**
- ◆ Doctorate in a related field with Early Childhood Education/Child Development emphasis*
- ◆ Minimum of 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting**
- ◆ Annual training required for renewal: 15 hours of approved training (plus 8 hours required for state licensing, if applicable, for a total of 23 hours)

*All credits and degrees must be from regionally accredited colleges and universities.

**Early Childhood settings are programs offering services to young children and their families including administrative and teacher/caregiving roles, or programs that conduct training or education in early childhood



Visit www.mtecp.org for more information about The Early Childhood Project.

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