



# General Information

Council for Professional Recognition



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# About the **Council** for Professional Recognition

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## **Mission of the Council**

The Council for Professional Recognition promotes improved performance and recognition of professionals in the early childhood education of children ages 0 to 5 years old.

## **Vision of the Council**

The Council works to ensure that all professional early childhood educators and caregivers meet the developmental, emotional, and educational needs of our nation's youngest children.

# History of the **CDA** Credential

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In the early 1970s, a group of innovative early childhood educators gathered together to think about how to improve the quality of early care and education. The concept for the CDA Credential was born out of those meetings and was initially funded by what was then called the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families (ACYF). After several years of development, the first CDA was awarded in 1975.

In 1985, ACYF entered into a cooperative agreement with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) for the purpose of creating a separate nonprofit organization to administer the CDA Credential. That organization, the Council for Professional Recognition, began administering the CDA on September 1, 1985.

Over 320,000 CDA credentials have been awarded to date, with approximately 18,000 early childhood professionals becoming new CDAs annually.

# Why the CDA is the “Best 1st Step”

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Nicole Hodock

High School  
CDA  
Recipient

Working Towards  
a BS in Early  
Childhood Education



Cynthia Box

CDA  
Recipient

Head  
Teacher



Teresa Rosemond

CDA  
Recipient

Earned  
BA

Owens her own  
Family Child  
Care Center



Magdalena Monroy

CDA  
Recipient

Earned  
BS

Professional  
Development  
Specialist



Dr. Calvin E. Moore, Jr.

CDA  
Recipient

Earned  
BS

Earned  
Master

Earned  
Doctorate

# Why CDA

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- 1. The CDA** brings vision and unity to the field about what professionals who work with young children should know and be able to do effectively in any setting – Center-Based Preschool, Infant & Toddler, Family Child Care and Home Visitor.
- 2. The CDA** is the only portable, reciprocal, competency-based, national credential recognized in all 50 states, territories, District of Columbia, community colleges and the United States military.
- 3. The CDA** credentialing system is based on the knowledge of the nation’s leading scholars in early care and learning. Utilizing multiple sources of evidence, the CDA national credentialing system is the only comprehensive system of its kind that recognizes the essential competencies needed by entry-level and all early childhood professionals.
- 4. The CDA** is the only credit-bearing national credential that articulates to Associate degrees in most community college systems across the nation.
- 5. The CDA** is the only national, multi-language credentialing system that assesses educators in the language of their daily work.
- 6. The CDA has revolutionized entry-level credentialing once again!** With the launch of CDA 2.0 in June 2013, the Council has streamlined and strengthened the process, making it even more valuable as a professional development experience.

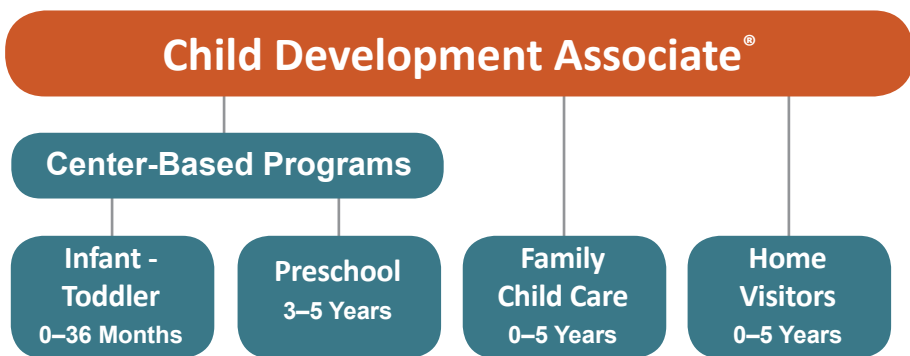
# The Child Development Associate CDA Credential™

The Child Development Associate (CDA) National Credentialing Program™ is the unique credentialing process, administered by the Council for Professional Recognition, which results in the award of the CDA Credential. The Program uses a specific set of time-tested, research-based tools that follow the CDA Competency Standards to determine early childhood teacher competency, based on multiple sources of evidence.

The CDA Competency Standards are the core of the CDA program. Candidates seeking to earn the CDA Credential are assessed based upon the CDA Competency Standards. These national standards are the criteria used to evaluate an early care and learning professional's performance with children, families, colleagues and their community.

The six Competency Goals establish the framework and the Standards are defined in more detail in our 13 Functional Areas. The Functional Areas describe the major tasks or functions early care professional must complete in order to carry out the Competency Standards.

The Council offers 4 different types of the CDA Credential listed below. Every Credential is also available with Bilingual specialization.



# QRIS & CDA Defining and Advancing Quality for Early Care and Education Professionals

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## QRIS and CDA: SHARED STRATEGIES

Typically, QRIS systems include five common elements: (1) standards, (2) accountability measures, (3) provider support, (4) financial incentives, and (5) parent/consumer education efforts. Although many States engage in quality initiatives touching on one or more of these areas. The CDA includes all five of these elements.

**To learn more about QRIS please visit the Council website at [www.cdacouncil.org/partners-and-qrис/qrис-and-cda](http://www.cdacouncil.org/partners-and-qrис/qrис-and-cda)**

### On the Council's website you will find links to:

- **QRIS and CDA: SHARED STRATEGIES:** Introduction to how the CDA is a comprehensive Credentialing system
- **QRIS and CDA: SHARED PURPOSE:** Defines the details of the shared purpose between the QRIS and the CDA.
- **QRIS and CDA: SHARED PARTNERSHIP:** Invitation for your State to partner directly with the Council.

**For questions email the Partnership team at [partnerships@cdacouncil.org](mailto:partnerships@cdacouncil.org)**

# CDA Professional Development Specialist System

The CDA Professional Development (PD) Specialist system involves a new role that supports Verification Visits with Candidates. During the visit the PD Specialist use the Council's R.O.R. Model™ to assess competency and support their growing skills as they move through the CDA National Credentialing Program®. The R.O.R. Model™ was designed for the PD Specialist to use as a tool to help develop the ECE expertise needed to facilitate each Candidate's self-reflection and professional growth.

**To learn more about the PD Specialist please visit the Council website at [www.cdacouncil.org/cda-pd-specialists](http://www.cdacouncil.org/cda-pd-specialists)**

## On the Council's website you will find links to:

- **Welcome PD Specialists:**
  - Role of the PD Specialist
  - PD Specialists Eligibility Criteria
  - How to Become a PD Specialist
  - How to Find a PD Specialist
  - PD Specialists Program FAQs
- **Find-A-PD Specialist Online Directory:** Directory for Candidates to use to find a PD Specialist near their center/program.
- **Apply to become a PD Specialist:** Submit your application to become a PD Specialist by using the online form.
- **PD Specialists Portal:** Use the Portal to access the online training modules and to take the PD Specialist Exam. You can only access the portal after your application has been approved. Once you become a PD Specialist you will use the portal to get your PD Specialist ID number, access the resource library, update your profile and submit the Verification Visit scores. The Portal is available in Spanish for Bilingual and Monolingual PD Specialists.

**For questions email the PD Specialist team at [PDS@cdacouncil.org](mailto:PDS@cdacouncil.org)**



# Partnering with the Council for Professional Recognition

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As a partner with the Council, there is an opportunity to establish a relationship aimed at supporting the professional development of early care and education professionals toward achieving **The Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential™**. As a partner, the Council can offer assistance in the development of an action plan to successfully implement CDA 2.0 in your respective training or educational program. We seek partnerships with Head Start and Early Head Start programs, community colleges, higher education and training organizations just to name a few.

**To learn more about Partnerships please visit the Council website at [www.cdacouncil.org/partners-and-qris](http://www.cdacouncil.org/partners-and-qris)**

## High School Students **CDA** Program

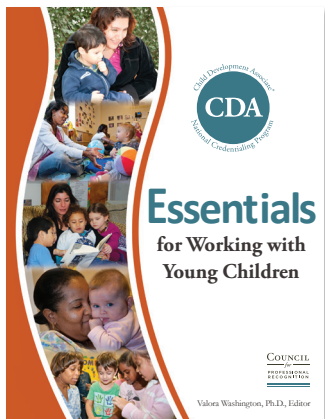
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In 2011, guided by the belief that a commitment to professionalism can begin as early as high school, the Council began allowing high school juniors and seniors enrolled in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs to earn their Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential™.

**To learn more about High School CDA program please visit the Council website at [www.cdacouncil.org/resource-center/156-hs-programs-now-eligible](http://www.cdacouncil.org/resource-center/156-hs-programs-now-eligible)**

**For questions email the Partnership team at [partnerships@cdacouncil.org](mailto:partnerships@cdacouncil.org)**

# CDA Bookstore



## Essentials for Working with Young Children

The new *Essentials for Working with Young Children* has been strengthened and streamlined to better meet the needs of CDA Candidates, trainers, instructors and faculty.

Essentials

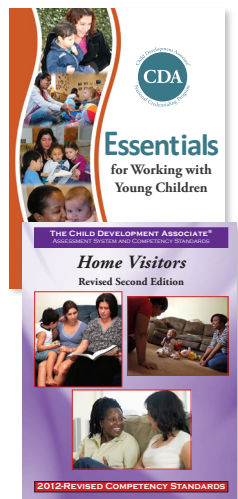
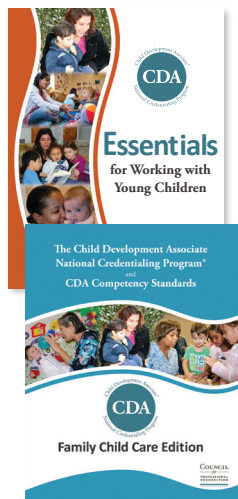
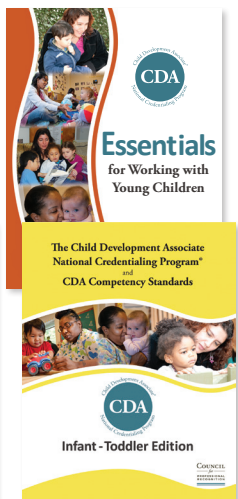
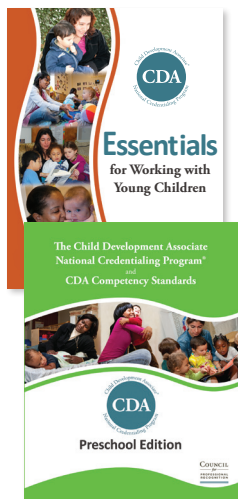
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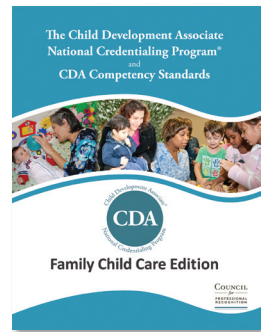
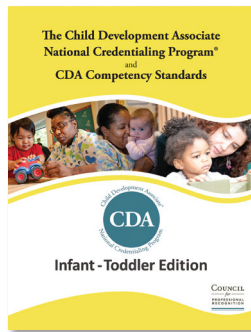
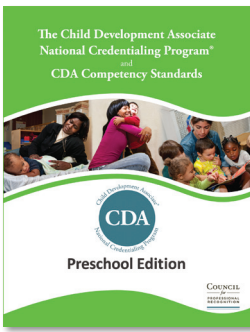
\$49

## Essentials for Working with Young Children Bundled together with Competency Standards Books

Pick any one Competency Standards books to accompany the new *Essentials for Working with Young Children* Textbook.

\$69





## CDA Competency Standards Books

Individuals or trainers can order the *Competency Standards* books by specialty setting. These books provide a description of the Competency Standards, the 13 CDA Functional Areas, information on the entire CDA credentialing process, and requirements for Candidates and the Professional Development Specialist.

Preschool ISBN: 978-0-9889650-0-3  
 Infant - Toddler ISBN: 978-0-9889650-1-0  
 Family Child Care ISBN: 978-0-9889650-2-7

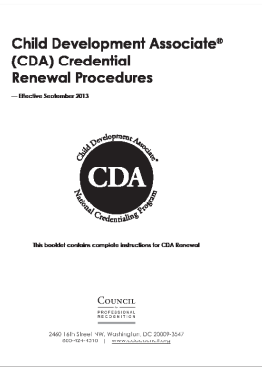
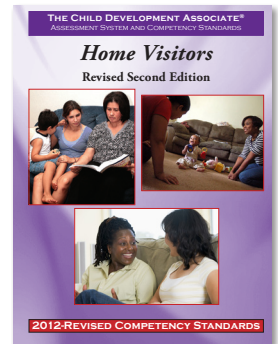
\$25

## CDA Home Visitors Packet

Application packet includes material needed for a Home Visitor CDA application. Packet includes three books one for each of the following, Candidate, Advisor and Council Representative.

Home Visitor ISBN: 978-0-9820805-5-9

\$25



## CDA Renewal Packet

The CDA Renewal Packet includes all information needed for CDA renewal, including a description of renewal requirements and guidance for completing the renewal process. Renewal Packet is also available in Spanish

Renewal Packet

\$15

To Learn More Visit the  
**Council** At

**Visit Us Online at**

[www.cdacouncil.org](http://www.cdacouncil.org)

**Subscribe to CouncilLINK Newsletter**

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— *for* —

**PROFESSIONAL  
RECOGNITION**

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