



montana early childhood project

The Montana Career Path:

A Framework for Professional Development in Early Childhood Education

Membership

- ◆ Enrolled in high school or GED/HiSET program **–OR–**
- ◆ Have not obtained high school diploma/GED/HiSET
- ◆ Currently working in an Early Childhood setting
- ◆ First Aid and CPR Certification
- ◆ Annual training required for renewal: 16 hours of approved training

Level 1

- ◆ High School diploma, GED, or HiSET
- ◆ Currently working in an Early Childhood setting
- ◆ First Aid and CPR Certification
- ◆ Annual training required for renewal: 16 hours of approved training

Level 2

- ◆ High School diploma, GED, or HiSET
- ◆ 60 hours of approved training in the past 5 years
- ◆ Minimum of 500 hours working in an Early Childhood setting
- ◆ First Aid and CPR Certification
- ◆ Annual training required for renewal: 16 hours of approved training

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 **–OR–**
- ◆ Some College plus at least 12 semester college credits in Early Childhood Education/Child Development **–OR–**
- ◆ MACTE Certified (Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education)
- ◆ High School diploma, GED, or HiSET
- ◆ Minimum of 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting
- ◆ First Aid and CPR Certification
- ◆ Annual training required for renewal: 16 hours of approved training

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
–OR–
- ◆ Minimum of a Bachelor's degree plus at least 12 semester college credits in Early Childhood Education/Child Development
- ◆ Minimum of 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting
- ◆ First Aid and CPR Certification
- ◆ Annual training required for renewal: 16 hours of approved training

Level 5 Certification

- ◆ Associate Degree with at least 20 semester college credits in Early Childhood Education/Child Development
- ◆ Minimum of 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting
- ◆ First Aid and CPR Certification
- ◆ Annual training required for renewal: 16 hours of approved training

Level 6 Certification

- ◆ Bachelor's Degree with at least 20 semester college credits in Early Childhood Education/Child Development
- ◆ Minimum of 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting
- ◆ First Aid and CPR Certification
- ◆ Annual training required for renewal: 16 hours of approved training

Level 7 Certification

- ◆ Bachelor's Degree with an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education OR a minor in Early Childhood Education
- ◆ Minimum of 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting
- ◆ First Aid and CPR Certification
- ◆ Annual training required for renewal: 16 hours of approved training

Level 8 Certification

- ◆ Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education/Child Development
–OR–
- ◆ Bachelor's Degree in Education with the P-3 teacher endorsement
- ◆ Minimum of 1000 hours working in an Early Childhood setting
- ◆ First Aid and CPR Certification
- ◆ Annual training required for renewal: 16 hours of approved training

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
- ◆ First Aid and CPR Certification
- ◆ Annual training required for renewal: 16 hours of approved training

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
- ◆ First Aid and CPR Certification
- ◆ Annual training required for renewal: 16 hours of approved training

- The ECP will be available for continued support to help individuals obtain their GED or Hi-Set certification.
- If you have a High School Diploma or HiSET/GED but are having trouble locating this documentation please contact The Early Childhood Project.
- 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.
- All college credits and degrees must be from regionally accredited colleges and universities. .
- Early Childhood college courses (verified by ECP) count for annual training hours (1 semester credit = 15 hours).
- View the supplemental document for more frequently asked questions.

