What Does the Law Require?

As of July 1, 1995, for every 20 children in a licensed child care facility, there must be one worker with a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a credential that is equivalent to or greater than the CDA.

What is Equivalent?

The Department of Children and Families has determined that the following educational qualifications are equivalent to or greater than the CDA:

- B.A., B.A., or advanced degree in early childhood education/child development, home economics/child development or elementary education with certification in early childhood education or primary education from an accredited college or university.

- Associate level (2 years) degree in early childhood/child development, or home economics/child development from an accredited college.

- Completion of a CDA equivalency program approved and listed by the Department of Children and Families.
**TRAINING OPTIONS AVAILABLE AT CHIPOLA COLLEGE**

**Option 1. Approved HRS Florida CDA Equivalence**
Completion of four child care training courses. The courses may be taken for academic college credit or clockhour credit.

- **CHD 1220 Child Growth and Development**
  (3 college credits or 45 clockhours)
- **CHD 2432 Curriculum for Young Children**
  (3 college credits or 45 clockhours)
- **CHD 1430 Observing and Recording Child Behavior**
  (3 college credits or 45 clockhours)
- **CHD 1941 Early Childhood Internship**
  (3 college credits or 45 clockhours)

**Option 2. CC Associate of Arts Degree**
Sixty semester hour degree with Child Development major. Designed for persons seeking employment in the child care field after two years of college. Must complete the following childcare courses.

- **CHD 1220 Child Growth and Development**
  (3 college credits)
- **CHD 2432 Curriculum for Young Children**
  (3 college credits)
- **CHD 1430 Observing and Recording Child Behavior**
  (3 college credits)
- **CHD 1941 Early Childhood Internship**
  (3 college credits)
  *(May be repeated 4 times for credit.)*

**Option 3. CC Associate of Science Degree**
Sixty semester hour degree with Child Development and Education major. Designed for persons seeking employment in the child care field after two years of college. Must complete the following childcare courses.

- **CHD 1220 Child Growth and Development**
  (3 college credits)
- **CHD 2432 Curriculum for Young Children**
  (3 college credits)
- **CHD 1430 Observing and Recording Child Behavior**
  (3 college credits)
- **CHD 1941 Early Childhood Internship**
  (3 college credits)

**Option 4. Florida Waiver Procedure for Eligible Child Caregivers**
For a child caregiver with an Associate, Baccalaureate, or advanced degree who is not certified in Early Childhood or in Primary Education, or does not have a Child Development major.

If you think you could be eligible for the waiver process:

1. Apply for admission as a non-degree student in the CJC Registrar’s Office.
2. Schedule an appointment with the Director of Continuing Education to register for CHD 2130 Orientation to CDA Credentialing.
   *(1 semester hour)*

**Option 5. National CDA Credential**
The 120 clock hours of formal training required to be eligible for CDA verification may be completed through designated noncredit CHD courses at Chipola. The courses will cover 13 functional CDA areas and will assist in preparing the Professional Resource File. The National CDA credential is issued by:

Council for Professional Recognition
2460 16TH Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009-3575
Phone: 1-800-424-4310
[www.cdacouncil.org](http://www.cdacouncil.org)