

# THE FAMILY CHILD CARE EDUCATOR CAREER PATHWAY

The career pathway for family child care educators specifies the formal education, experience, professional development, and professional activities that correspond with an educator who is at each level. For the purposes of this document, “family child care educator” is defined as an individual primarily

responsible for planning and implementing the educational program in a family child care program which is operated in a home environment. Family child care educators progress from one level to another through a combination of formal study, experience, and professional development.

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
<b>Formal Education</b>			
High School Diploma or GED.	12 credit hours in Early Childhood Education (ECE). <b>OR</b> A CDA plus 9 credit hours in Early Childhood Education (ECE).	AA in Early Childhood Education (ECE). <b>OR</b> 24 credits in Early Childhood Education (ECE).	Bachelor’s Degree in addition to or including 30 credits in Early Childhood Education (ECE). <b>OR</b> Has RI Early Childhood Certification PreK - 2 (includes Bachelor’s Degree).
<b>Experience</b>			
Minimum of 1 year of relevant experience in Early Childhood Education (ECE).	Minimum of 1 year of relevant experience in Early Childhood Education (may include fieldwork, coaching, mentoring, practicum or technical assistance).	Minimum of 1 year of relevant experience in Early Childhood Education (may include fieldwork, coaching, mentoring, practicum or technical assistance).	Minimum of 2 years of relevant experience in Early Childhood Education (may include fieldwork, coaching, mentoring, practicum or technical assistance).
<b>Relevant Professional Development/Credentials</b>			
Minimum of 20 hours/year of professional development directly pertaining to the workforce knowledge and competencies. <b>OR</b> Comparable credit hours in Early Childhood Education (ECE).	Minimum of 20 hours/year of professional development directly pertaining to the workforce knowledge and competencies. <b>OR</b> Comparable credit hours in Early Childhood Education (ECE).	Minimum of 20 hours/year of professional development directly pertaining to the workforce knowledge and competencies. <b>OR</b> Comparable credit hours in Early Childhood Education (ECE).	Practitioner portfolio <b>AND</b> Minimum of 20 hours/year of professional development directly pertaining to the workforce knowledge and competencies. <b>OR</b> Comparable credit hours in Early Childhood Education (ECE).
<b>Professional Activities</b>			
		Membership in professional organization related to Early Childhood Education (ECE).	Membership in professional organization related to Early Childhood Education (ECE). <b>AND</b> Participation in at least one state, regional, or national conference via attendance, planning or presentation. <b>OR</b> Participation in community or state coalition related to early childhood.