

# THE TEACHER ASSISTANT CAREER PATHWAY

The career pathway for the teacher assistant role specifies the formal education, experience, professional development, and professional activities that correspond with a teacher assistant who is at each level. This document defines **teacher assistant** as an individual who assists the teacher in planning and

implementing the educational program in an early childhood classroom. Teacher assistants progress from one level to another through a combination of formal study, experience and professional development. Level I corresponds with Rhode Island's minimal expectations for teacher assistants.

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
<b>Formal Education</b>		
High School Diploma or GED.	Minimum of 6 college credit hours in Early Childhood Education (ECE). <b>OR</b> A Child Development Associate Certificate (CDA) plus 3 credit hours in Early Childhood Education (ECE).	12 college credit hours in Early Childhood Education (ECE). <b>OR</b> A CDA plus 9 credit hours in Early Childhood Education (ECE).
<b>Experience</b>		
Minimum of 1 year of relevant experience.	Minimum of 1 year of supervised experience <sup>1</sup> .	Minimum of 3 years of supervised experience.
<b>Relevant Professional Development/Credentials</b>		
Minimum of 20 hours/year of professional development related to the workforce core knowledge and competencies. <b>OR</b> Comparable credit hours in Early Childhood Education (ECE).	Minimum of 20 hours/year of professional development related to the workforce core knowledge and competencies. <b>OR</b> Comparable credit hours in Early Childhood Education (ECE).	Minimum of 20 hours/year of professional development related to the workforce core 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).

<sup>1</sup> Supervised experience refers to employment as a teacher assistant in a classroom under the supervision of an Education Coordinator, Head Teacher or other educational administrator.