

Delaware Early Childhood Career Lattice

A listing of educational requirements and corresponding career opportunities for employment in the early childhood field

Educational Steps	Career Options
Step 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Completed <i>Introduction</i> course: 12-15 hours Family Child Care; 15-18 hours Early Care and Education or School Age Centers; or 3 ECE credits; OR ❖ Delaware First (DPEC) or DelaCare qualified 	Family Child Care Level I Licensee (old rules-grandfathered position); Large Family Child Care Assistant; Early Childhood Caregiver (grandfathered position); Early Childhood Intern; School -Age Intern; School-Age Site Assistant
Step 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ High School Diploma or GED certificate; OR ❖ Delaware First (DPEC) or DelaCare qualified 	Family Child Care Level I Licensee (2009- new Rules)
Step 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Successful completion of Training for Early Care & Education (TECE) I; or 6 ECE credits; or 60 clock hours**; or equivalent as determined by DPEC; OR ❖ Delaware First (DPEC) or DelaCare qualified 	Early Childhood Assistant Teacher; Level II Family Child Care Licensee**; School-Age Site Assistant
Step 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Successful completion of Training for Early Care and Education (TECE) I & 2; or 9 ECE credits or Valid CDA; or 9 SA related credits; or equivalent as determined by DPEC; OR ❖ Delaware First (DPEC) or DelaCare qualified 	Early Childhood Teacher; Large Family Child Care Licensee; Head Start Teacher/Assistant Teacher (CDA or 12 ECE credits); <i>CDA Advisor</i> ; <i>Family Child Care Accreditation Validator</i>
Step 4.5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Early Childhood Credential (Inclusion, School-Age, Preschool, Infant Toddler, Family Child Care or Administration) ❖ Early Childhood Journey person (completed two year EC Apprenticeship) 	
Step 5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 15 ECE credits; or 12 SA related credits; OR ❖ Delaware First (DPEC) or DelaCare qualified; OR ❖ Montessori Associate Credential (infant toddler or early childhood) 	Curriculum Coordinator (without a degree-grandfathered position); Early Childhood Administrator (without a degree-grandfathered position); Montessori Assistant Teacher; School-Age Site Coordinator
Step 5.5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Early Childhood Credential (Inclusion, School-Age, Preschool, Infant Toddler, Family Child Care or Administration) 	
Step 6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 30 college credits, must include 15 ECE or 12 SA credits 	
Step 6.5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Early Childhood Credential (Inclusion, School-Age, Preschool, Infant Toddler, Family Child Care or Administration) 	
Step 7: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ AA/AS, must include 15 ECE or 12 SA credits; OR ❖ Delaware First (DPEC) qualified <p>-----</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <i>Additional training or education may be required for these positions related to ECE or SA field; may not need 15 credits in ECE or SA</i> 	Head Start Teacher; Early Head Start Home Visitor; Early Childhood Administrator; Early Childhood Curriculum Coordinator; School-Age Administrator ----- <i>Basic Instructor; Parent Educator; Family Service Worker; Home Visitor; Therapy Assistant; Para-Educator; POC Monitor; CACFP Monitor</i>
Step 7.5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Early Childhood Credential (Inclusion, School-Age, Preschool, Infant Toddler, Family Child Care or Administration) 	
Step 8: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ BA/BS, must include 15 ECE or 12 SA credits; OR ❖ Montessori Credential (infant toddler, early childhood, or administration) <p>-----</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <i>Additional training or education may be required for these positions related to ECE or SA field; may not need 15 credits in ECE or SA</i> 	Montessori Lead Teacher (IT, SA or EC); Head Start Program/Center Coordinator; Early Head Start Program Coordinator; Early Head Start Director; Montessori Administrator; <i>Early Head Start Family Advocate; CDA Representative</i> ----- <i>Intermediate or Master Instructor; Mentor; Coach; Technical Assistant; Assessor; Preschool Special Education Teacher; Early Childhood Special Educator; Public School Teacher; Resource and Referral Specialist; Licensing</i>

	<i>Specialist; Community College Instructor; Child Life Specialist; Career Advisor; NAEYC Accreditation Validator; Child Development Specialist; Child Care Health Consultant; Early Intervention Service Coordinator</i>
Step 8.5: ❖ Early Childhood Credential (Inclusion, School-Age, Preschool, Infant Toddler, Family Child Care or Administration)	
Step 9: ❖ MA/MS/MEd, must include 15 ECE or 12 SA credits ----- ❖ <i>Additional training or education may be required for these positions related to ECE or SA field; may not need 15 credits in ECE or SA</i>	----- <i>Occupational Therapist; Physical Therapist; Speech Language Pathologist; Advanced Practical Nurse; Higher Education Faculty; School Administrator; Special Education Coordinator; Public Policy Administrator; Researcher; Counselor; Children's Librarian</i>
Step 10: ❖ PhD/EdD, must include 15 ECE or 12 SA credits ----- ❖ <i>Additional training or education may be required for these positions related to ECE or SA field; may not need 15 credits in ECE or SA</i>	----- <i>Higher Education Faculty; School District Superintendent; Psychologist</i>

Note:

- *Steps 3 & 4 require documentation of High School Diploma or GED certificate.*
- *Attainment of more than one Credential does not automatically increase your Step. Completion of additional college coursework is required to move to the next full Step. For example: at Step 4.5 with successful completion of TECE 1 & 2 and an Inclusion Credential, the early childhood professional cannot move to Step 5.5 without completing the educational requirements of Step 5 and successfully completing another credential.*
- *Continued employment in a licensed early care and education or school-age center or a family/large family child care will depend on completing required annual training hours; a valid CPR and first aid; and a professional development plan.*
- *The Career Options list at each Career Lattice Step does not guarantee eligibility for employment as other conditions may apply, such as minimum age, experience and/or advanced education.*

Acronyms:

- DPEC – Delaware Practitioners in Early Childhood
- GED – General Education Diploma
- TECE – Training for Early Care and Education
- ECE – Early Care and Education
- CDA – Child Development Associate Credential
- SA – School-Age
- EC – Early Childhood
- POC – Purchase of Care
- CACFP – Child and Adult Care Food Program
- IT – Infant Toddler