



Lattice Placement Manual

Alabama Pathways Professional Development Lattice

	Training and Education	Training and Education Resources
Level 1	Minimum Standards training requirements and/or Alabama Early Learning Guidelines (AELG) Credential	Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) Child Care Services Division; DHR Quality Enhancement Contractors; Local, Statewide, Regional and National Professional Child Care Organizations
Level 2	Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential or other national credential in child care/early care and education	Council for Professional Recognition; DHR Regional Quality Enhancement Contractors; Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Institutions
Level 3	Short Certificate and/or Certificate in Child Development/Early Care & Education	Alabama Community College System (ACCS) 2-Year Institutions
Level 4	Associate in Applied Science/Technology (AAS or AAT) Degree in Child Development/Early Care & Education, and/or Associate in Arts/Science (AA or AS) Degree in Child Development/Early Childhood Education including 18 child development/early childhood specific credits	Alabama Community College System (ACCS) 2-Year Institutions
Level 5	Bachelor's Degree in Child Development, Early Childhood Education, or Elementary Education including 30 child development/early childhood specific credits	Athens State University; Public and Private 4-Year Colleges and Universities
Level 6	Master's Degree in Child Development, Early Childhood Education, or Elementary Education including 15 child development/early childhood specific credits	Public and Private 4-Year Colleges and Universities
Level 7	Education Specialist (Ed.S.) Degree in Child Development, Early Childhood Education, or Elementary Education including 15 child development/early childhood specific credits	Public and Private 4-Year Colleges and Universities
Level 8	Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree or Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) Degree in Child Development, Early Childhood Education, or Elementary Education including 15 child development/early childhood specific credits	Public and Private 4-Year Colleges and Universities

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Level 1- Alabama Early Learning Guidelines (AELG) Credential

- Verify a certificate of completion from Quality Enhancement Agencies or APT

Level 2- Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential OR other national credential in child care/ECE

- Verify a current CDA (check for valid dates)
- Examples of other credentials are the Montessori Infant and Toddler or Early Childhood credential

Level 3- Short Certificate or Certificate in CD/ECE

- This is offered by the community colleges and different colleges issue different certificates with varying hours and credits
- To count for level 3, the certificates must total at least **18 hours**
- Verify 18 hours of CD/ECE on transcript if the certificates do not specify the number of hours

Level 4- Associate's in Applied Science / Technology or an Associate's in Arts / Sciences with at least 18 CD / ECE semester credit hours.

- The difference between these 2 types of Associates is that the Associate's in Arts & Sciences is usually a transfer degree with primarily core coursework (math, English, science, etc.)
- Verify degree completion and verify transcript with 18 hours of CD/ECE coursework

Level 5- Bachelor's degree in CD / ECE or an Elementary Education degree with at least 30 CD / ECE semester credit hours

- Verify degree completion if degree is in CD/ECE
- If degree in Elem Ed, verify 30 hours of CD/ECE coursework on transcript

Levels 6 , 7, and 8- Master's, Education Specialist, and doctorate degrees in CD / ECE or an Elementary Education degree with at least 15 CD / ECE semester credit hours.

- Verify degree completion if degree is in CD/ECE
- If degree in Elem Ed, verify 15 hours of CD/ECE coursework on transcript

****When verifying CD/ECE coursework**

- Look for prefixes or course titles that indicate the coursework meets requirement
- Course prefixes CD and ECE would count, but there could possibly be others
- Credit for CD/ECE coursework can be received if the course title includes early childhood, child development, young children, infant/toddler, or early intervention. The course title should include words like child, young, early, etc. (ex. A course titled Human Development would need a CD/ECE prefix since it doesn't include those key words)

- If a course does not have a CD/ECE prefix and the title does not include those key words, but you feel it may meet requirements, you can look at a course description/syllabus to verify that the majority of the course focuses on early childhood
- Pay attention to semester hours vs. quarter hours