

**Early Childhood Education
Child Development Associate Certificate
Agreement to Grant Credits
October 2009
(Approved by the Instruction Commission November 19, 2009)**

History

A committee was assigned to craft a proposal for community and technical colleges to grant credit for the Child Development Associate certificate issued by the Council for Professional Recognition. *(No high school program offers the CDA, to my knowledge)*. A committee made up of members of the Early Childhood Teacher Preparation Council met on July 13, 2009 and agreed to the following proposal to grant credit for students holding current Child Development Associate certificates.

Purpose

The purpose of the proposal was to fill an identified hole in the Early Childhood Education career pathway for students seeking certificates and degrees. Currently, the number of credits granted by colleges for the Child Development Associate (CDA) certificate is inconsistent. The process of articulation or recognition lacks uniformity and agreement among community and technical college ECE directors, coordinators, and faculty members.

Proposal

The Child Development Associate certificate is a nationally recognized credential based upon written competencies. Individuals who hold a current Child Development Associate certificate have had their competencies assessed through written, oral and portfolio-like measures by the Council for Professional Recognition.

Community and technical colleges of Washington State agree to grant **a minimum of 9 credits** toward a certificate or degree in Early Childhood Education for students who hold a current Child Development Associate certificate and who are enrolled in an accredited Early Childhood Education program, in an institution of higher education..

Individuals applying for college credit may have received their 120 hours of instruction from any source approved by the CDA's Council for Professional Recognition including community based organizations. Individuals must complete the CDA assessment process of portfolio approval, site visit / observation, and examination in order to obtain the CDA certificate recognized by institutions of higher education. CDA certificates are valid for just three years after being issued, unless the individual has enrolled in / completed a credit bearing ECE course.

Community and technical colleges may charge local college transcription fees for students given credit under this agreement.

Adoption

On October 15, 2009 the Early Childhood Teacher Preparation Council reviewed the proposal and passed the agreement as outlined above.