

Early Care and Education Career Path

Created to support the professional development system for early care and education professionals developed by the Center for Child Care Career Development and funded by the Department of Social Services.

Ph.D or Ed.D Early Childhood Degree

Concentration in Early Childhood or related to early care & education

Education Specialist Degree

Master's Degree + 36 academic hours

Master's Degree

Related to Early Care & Education

Bachelor Degree

Early Childhood Education

Associate Degree³

Major Early Childhood Development/Education

Early Childhood Certificate³

(27-35 Hours, SC Technical College System)

1. ECD 101 is the foundational early childhood course taught at South Carolina technical and community colleges.

1a. SAC 101 is the foundational school age course taught at South Carolina technical colleges.

2. Administered by Council for Professional Recognition.

3. Awarded by South Carolina technical and community colleges.

Level 3 Credentials

Infant Toddler
Credential

Preschool
Credential

Director
Credential

Family Childcare
Credential

Special Needs
Credential

After earning the Level 1 Credential, and Level 2 Credential in one of the 5 specializations, students may choose to continue their specialization by successfully completing the Level 3 Credential.

Level 2 Credentials

Infant Toddler
Credential

Preschool
Credential

Director
Credential

Family Childcare
Credential

Special Needs
Credential

After earning the SC Early Childhood Credential Level 1, students may choose a specialization in one or all of 5 areas to earn a Level 2 Credential.

South Carolina Early Childhood Credential (ECD 101)¹

High School Diploma/GED

ACADEMIC CREDIT LEVEL 1

School Age Credential (SAC 101)^{1a}

NON ACADEMIC CREDIT CDA

Child Development Associate²

All credentials are issued by the

South Carolina Center for Child Care Career Development