



Building a Strong Foundation

Credentialing Opportunity for Illinois early care and education practitioners

Level 1 ECE Credential

Caring and well-trained child care providers nurture our young children while helping them build learning and social skills. Their work helps build stronger families and communities.

The Level 1 ECE Credential is the foundational part of a larger credentialing system (career lattice). This credential can be earned through the Illinois Trainers Network and helps strengthen the important services provided by local child care providers. It can also be earned as the first step into the early childhood profession.

This 48-hour training course was designed especially for:

- Entry-level center staff
- Family child care providers
- Relative, Friend & Neighbor providers
- Parents
- Students assistants
- Home visitors
- Volunteers

The training can build on experiences with young children. It teaches good child nutrition habits, child development, play skills, thinking and social skills, and how to create a safer learning environment. The training offers simple insights, lessons and games that are easily put to use which serve to improve the social, motor and learning skills of the children they serve. Upon completion, the training program can strengthen and stabilize the network of local child care providers that families — and their employers — depend upon.

Participants who complete the training are eligible to receive a Level 1 ECE Credential recognized by the Illinois Department of Human Services. This credential will signify their achievement of this basic awareness level of knowledge and skills across the early childhood competency areas. Courses are available throughout Illinois through local Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) Agencies. Contact your local CCR&R at 877.202.4453.

Need a central resource to meet all your professional development needs? Visit www.ilgateways.com or call Gateways to Opportunity at 866.697.8278.

The Level 1 ECE Credential Training

Listed below are topics that will be covered in the Level 1 ECE Credential Training.
Training opportunities can be found on the Gateways website at www.ilgateways.com.

Child Development Overview

An overview of child development for children birth through school-age

Health Issues for Children in Group Care

Hand washing
Diapering
Stress
Preventing illness
Cultural practices surrounding health care

Nutrition Issues for Group Care

Cultural practices surrounding nutrition
Good nutrition
Food safety

Safety Issues for Group Care

Abuse and neglect
Safety in group care
First Aid kits
Emergency preparedness

Observation and Guidance: Tools for Early Care Teachers

Types of observation
Observing children to give guidance and discipline

Learning Happens in Relationships

The Learning Relationship:
Teachers and Children
The learning environment, inside and outside
Including children with special needs

Family and Community Relationships

Family empowerment and partnerships
Helping parents to become our partners
The social world of a family

Personal and Professional Development

What is a professional?
Caring for the caregiver
Support systems
Boundary issues

Child Development: Birth to 8 months

How they learn and grow
Individualizing care

Child Development: 8 months to 18 months

How they learn and grow
Toys, games and songs for 8 to 18 month old children

Child Development: 18 months to 36 months

How they learn and grow
Learning language
Learning to think
Learning to move — big and small
Learning about feelings

Preschool Children: Social and Emotional Development

Goals for preschooler's social and emotional learning
Promoting discipline in preschool children

Preschool Children: Physical Development

Promoting physical development in preschoolers
Cross-lateral movement
Fine motor activities

Preschool Children: Language Development

Language and literacy
Using a literature-based curriculum
Adaptations for children with special needs

Preschool Children: Cognitive Development

Meaningful learning
How preschoolers learn
Numbers, shapes, colors, and science

School-Age Development

How school-age children grow and learn
Caring for school-age youth
Guidance and setting limits

