



Direct Your Focus

The Gateways to Opportunity Infant Toddler Credential validates the specialized knowledge, skills and experience needed to work with children from birth to three years of age.

What is the purpose of the Infant Toddler Credential?

- Formalize the knowledge needed by those working with children birth to three years of age
- Improve the quality of services for families
- Increase positive outcomes for infants and toddlers
- Increase the availability of infant/toddler coursework and training

Who is the credential for?

The Infant Toddler Credential was developed for current and prospective professionals and paraprofessionals who provide care and education for infants, toddlers and their families through the following systems:

- Education
- Child Care
- Early Head Start
- Home Visiting
- Early Intervention
- Health
- Other birth to three and family support programs

Practitioners with varying levels of education and experience are eligible to apply for the credential. The Gateways to Opportunity Infant Toddler Credential is a specialization within the Career Lattice. The Infant Toddler Credential requires that individuals meet the ECE Credential requirements as well.

Why do we need an Infant Toddler Credential in Illinois?

Research indicates that the quality of education and care infants and toddlers receive largely depends on the qualifications of the adults interacting most closely with infants, toddlers and their families.

The Infant Toddler Credential will:

- Raise the quality of care by defining the knowledge and skills practitioners need to work effectively with very young children
- Serve as a career guide for current and future practitioners
- Increase public awareness about the importance of working with very young children
- Build the credibility of those working in the field.
- Help parents make informed choices about who provides care and education to their children

Benefits of receiving the Infant Toddler Credential

- Recognition and validation of specialized skills and knowledge
- Opportunities to further develop and enhance skills
- Opportunities for career advancement
- Increased marketability when job-seeking

Please contact Gateways to Opportunity at 866.697.8278 or visit www.ilgateways.com for more information.

