

Gateways to Opportunity® Infant Toddler Credential Framework

ECE Levels	Education Requirements	Education and Training in Early Care & Education	Work and Practical Experience in Early Care & Education	Professional Contributions in Early Care & Education	ITC Levels	Education and Training in Infants & Toddlers	Work and Practical Experience in Infants & Toddlers
Level 6	Graduate Degree	30 points in ECE Content Areas of which a maximum of 6 points may be from Credential approved training	Minimum of 200 hours of ECE supervised experience or 1200 total hours of documented ECE work experience	Six professional contributions within the last five years, of which two must target infants, toddlers, and their families.	Level 6	18 points in IT specific education of which 6 points must be from graduate level IT coursework. 2 points must be in Infant Mental Health, and a maximum of 6 points may be from IT Credential approved training	3,600 hours of documented experience with Infants, Toddlers, and their families
Level 5	Bachelor's Degree A Professional Educator License with endorsement in Early Childhood Education meets these requirements	30 points in the ECE Content Areas <i>(of level 5 benchmarks)</i> – of which a maximum of 6 points may be from Credential approved training	Minimum of 200 hours of ECE supervised experience or 1200 total hours of documented ECE work experience	Required at Renewal	Level 5	12 points in specific Infant and Toddler education and approved training, of which a maximum of 6 points may be from IT Credential approved training	100 hours of supervised experience with Infants, Toddlers, and their families or 1800 hours of documented IT work experience
Level 4	Associate's Degree or 60+ semester hours (including the 9 semester hours listed at level 3)	24 points in the ECE Content Areas <i>(of level 2-4 benchmarks)</i> – of which a maximum of 3 points may be from Credential approved training <i>(must include 20 clock hours of ECE observation)</i>	100 total hours of ECE supervised experience or 600 total hours of documented ECE work experience	Required at Renewal	Level 4	6 points in specific Infant and Toddler education and approved training, of which a maximum of 3 points may be from IT Credential approved training	50 hours of supervised experience with Infants, Toddlers, and their families or 900 hours of documented IT work experience
Level 3	Three semester hours: Any Math, English, and General Education electives (Psychology, Sociology, Science, etc.) <i>(These 9 hours must be credit bearing and nondevelopmental 100 level+)</i>	18 points in the ECE Content Areas <i>(of level 2-4 benchmarks)</i> – of which a maximum of 3 points may be from Credential approved training <i>(must include 20 clock hours of ECE observation)</i>	10 hours of ECE supervised experience or 400 total hours of documented ECE work experience	Required at Renewal	Level 3	6 points in specific Infant and Toddler education and approved training, of which a maximum of 3 points may be from IT Credential approved training	10 hours of supervised experience with Infants, Toddlers, and their families or 450 hours of documented IT work experience
Level 2	High School Diploma or GED Effective July, 2016, 4 additional points required from general or ECE specific education	12 points in the ECE Content Areas <i>(of level 2-4 benchmarks)</i> – 3 points in Human Growth and Development, 3 points in Health Safety and Well-Being, and 6 points from ECE electives or 6 points in ECE electives and a CDA, CCP, or Montessori Credential through AMS* 3 points may be from Credential approved training or the ECE Credential Level 1	10 hours of ECE observation or 200 hours of documented ECE work experience	Required at Renewal	Level 2	3 points in specific Infant and Toddler education and approved training, of which all 3 points may be from IT Credential approved training	5 hours of supervised experience with Infants, Toddlers, and their families or 200 hours of documented IT work experience

*American Montessori Society (AMS) Early Childhood and Infant Toddler Credentials count for a maximum of 6 points of credential approved training for the ECE, Infant Toddler Credential, or Illinois Director Credential.

Gateways to Opportunity® Infant Toddler Credential (ITC) Framework

	EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS	COLLEGE EDUCATION & TRAINING REQUIRED COMPETENCIES WITH INFANTS & TODDLERS (BIRTH TO 36 MONTHS)	WORK & PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE WITH INFANTS & TODDLERS
LEVEL 6	Graduate Degree and ECE Credential Level 5 or higher	Must meet all previous level competencies plus: ITC Human Growth and Development (HGD8) ITC Health Safety, and Well-Being (HSW6, HSW7) ITC Observation and Assessment (OA4, OA5, OA6) ITC Curriculum or Program Design (CPD6, CPD7, CPD8) ITC Interactions, Relationships, and Environments (IRE8) ITC Family and Community Relationships (FCR8) ITC Personal and Professional Development (PPD6, PPD7, PPD8, PPD9) [18 points]	Must meet Level 5 work and practical experience plus an additional 1,800 hours of documented experience with infants, toddlers, and their families or 3,600 total hours of documented experience with infants, toddlers, and their families
LEVEL 5	ECE Credential Level 5	Must meet all previous level competencies plus: ITC Human Growth and Development (HGD7) ITC Curriculum or Program Design (CPD5) ITC Family and Community Relationships (FCR7) ITC Personal and Professional Development (PPD5) [12 points]	Minimum of 100 hours supervised experience with infants, toddlers, and their families or 1,800 total hours of documented work experience with infants, toddlers, and their families
LEVEL 4	ECE Credential Level 4 or higher	Must meet all previous level competencies plus: ITC Human Growth and Development (HGD6) ITC Health, Safety, and Well-Being (HSW5) ITC Observation and Assessment (OA3) ITC Curriculum or Program Design (CPD4) ITC Interactions, Relationships, and Environments (IRE7) ITC Family and Community Relationships (FCR5, FCR6) ITC Personal and Professional Development (PPD4) [6 points]	50 total hours of supervised experience with infants, toddlers, and their families or 900 total hours of documented work experience with infants, toddlers, and their families
LEVEL 3	ECE Credential Level 3 or higher	Must meet all previous level competencies plus: ITC Human Growth and Development (HGD4, HGD5) ITC Health, Safety, and Well-Being (HSW3, HSW4) ITC Observation and Assessment (OA1, OA2) ITC Curriculum or Program Design (CPD1, CPD2, CPD3) ITC Interactions, Relationships, and Environments (IRE4, IRE5, IRE6) ITC Family and Community Relationships (FCR4) ITC Personal and Professional Development (PPD3) [6 points]	10 hours of supervised experience with infants, toddlers, and their families or 450 total hours of documented work experience with infants, toddlers, and their families
LEVEL 2	ECE Credential Level 2 or higher	ITC Human Growth and Development (HGD1, HGD2, HGD3) ITC Health, Safety, and Well-Being (HSW1, HSW2) ITC Interactions, Relationships, and Environments (IRE1, IRE2, IRE3) ITC Family and Community Relationships (FCR1, FCR2, FCR3) ITC Personal and Professional Development (PPD1, PPD2) [3 points]	5 hours of supervised experience with infants, toddlers, and their families or 200 hours of documented work experience with infants, toddlers, and their families



The Infant Toddler Childhood Development Associate (CDA) = ITC HSW1, ITC HSW2, ITC IRE1, ITC IRE2, ITC IRE 3, ITC FCR3, ITC PPD2 plus ECE FCR1 and ECE PPD1.

In addition to meeting required competencies through college coursework;
Up to 13 competencies (total) may be documented through credential approved training for Levels 2-4
Up to 20 competencies (total) may be documented through credential approved training for Level 5 and 6

Infant Toddler Credential (ITC) Competencies

ITC HGD | Human Growth and Development

- 1 Explains the developmental trajectory of children birth to three and outlines realistic expectations for infant/toddler knowledge, capabilities and behaviors.
- 2 Describes ways that attachment, development, and learning, prenatal-age 3, are influenced by early environments and experiences (e.g., adult/child interaction, opportunities for exploration).
- 3 Describes individual differences in infants and toddler's interactions with and responses to the physical and social world.
- 4 Identifies how early relationships with and among caregivers influence healthy development and learning, prenatal-age 3.
- 5 Explains interrelationship between unique developmental trajectories and early relationships (e.g. attachment, trust) with primary caregivers on infant and toddler development, learning, mental health, and well-being.
- 6 Analyzes infant and toddler interactions with the physical and social world and implements responsive, supportive practices that nurture young children's development, learning, mental health, and well-being.
- 7 Identifies biological and environmental risk conditions that can impact infant-toddler development, learning, and mental health, and well-being and how these conditions relate to Illinois' definitions of eligibility for early intervention and the need for special services.
- 8 Supports families and practitioners in identifying biological and environmental risk and resilience factors that may impact healthy infant/toddler development, learning, mental health, and well-being.

ITC HSW | Health, Safety, and Well-Being

- 1 Identifies infant/toddler mental health, nutritional and safety concerns.
- 2 Engages in developmentally, individually, and culturally responsive interactions with infants/toddlers.
- 3 Creates safe and appropriate eating environments (nutrition, interactions) support healthy development, learning, mental health, and well-being.
- 4 Develops safe indoor and outdoor play environments for infants and toddlers.
- 5 Identifies, utilizes, and supports family access to and engagement with health, nutrition, and safety information to support the healthy development and learning of young children, prenatal to age three.
- 6 Identifies environmental challenges and advances strategies, in partnership with families, to support positive outcomes related to the health, safety, and well-being of infants/toddlers within their familial and community environment.
- 7 Utilizes communication and collaboration skills to partner with and support families and practitioners in understanding and applying evidence-based practices that promote infant/toddler health, safety, and well-being.

ITC OA | Observation and Assessment

- 1 Selects and uses legal and ethical birth to three assessment procedures, screening tools, observation methods, and organizational strategies to gain knowledge of young children, and their familial and social contexts.
- 2 Collaborates with families to support knowledge of the purpose and benefits of screening and assessment and the benefits of assessment partnership.
- 3 Analyzes, complies and shares observation and documentation data with families and appropriate caregivers to support holistic knowledge of infant/toddler development and learning within the environmental context.
- 4 Identifies, selects, and implements culturally, linguistically, and individually responsive observation and assessment strategies.
- 5 Promotes family and practitioner knowledge of and engagement in infant and toddler assessment.
- 6 Identifies developmental and environmental risk factors requiring intervention through observation and assessment.

ITC CPD | Curriculum or Program Design

- 1 Identifies foundational components of high-quality, responsive, infant and toddler care.
- 2 Identifies culturally, individually, and developmentally responsive curricular strategies that nurture infant/toddler development, learning, mental health, and well-being.
- 3 Plans and implements, in partnership with families, culturally, individually, and developmentally responsive curricular strategies and interactions that nurture infant/toddler development, learning, mental health, and well-being.
- 4 Adapts instructional practices through the use of tools and strategies supportive of the development, learning, mental health, and well-being of infants and toddlers.
- 5 Justifies and advocates for practices in infant and toddler care and education supportive of young children's healthy development and learning.
- 6 Plans and implements evidence-based developmental interventions for infants/toddlers and families based on a holistic needs assessment.
- 7 Supports families and practitioners in embedding evidence-based practices that are responsive to the unique developmental trajectories and contexts of infants and toddlers.
- 8 Develops and implements relationship-based infant/toddler activities and program plans based on each individual child and family's strengths, opportunities for growth, cultural context, individual goals, and desired outcomes.

ITC IRE | Interactions, Relationships, and Environments

- 1 Identifies the importance of healthy relationships in nurturing the development, learning, mental-health, and well-being of young children, birth to age three.
- 2 Describes interactions and strategies that support healthy infant/toddler development, learning, mental health, and well-being and how these can be integrated into daily routines
- 3 Engages in interactions, embedded in daily routines and activities, supportive of developing and maintaining nurturing relationships with infants and toddlers.
- 4 Integrates family experience, cultural practices and perspectives, and knowledge of childrearing beliefs and practices into the infant/toddler setting.
- 5 Establishes positive practitioner-family interactions and relationships that support growth, promoting, positive family-child interactions and relationships from birth-3.
- 6 Creates culturally and linguistically responsive environments, interactions, and experiences that nurture healthy infant/toddler development, learning, mental health, and well-being.
- 7 Facilitates and advocates for the creation of evidence and relationship-based infant/toddler environments, interactions, and routines that support healthy infant/toddler development, learning, mental health, and well-being.
- 8 Develops and implements, in partnership with families, unique relationship building strategies--embedded within daily interactions--that are designed to develop the confidence and capabilities of families and practitioners in their capacity to nurture the development, learning, and well-being of infants/toddlers.

ITC FCR | Family and Community Relationships

- 1 Describes the inter-relationship between children, family, practitioners, and community contexts, their influence on families' approaches to parenting children birth to age three, and the impact on family-practitioner collaboration.
- 2 Demonstrates behavior that reflects confidentiality and awareness of the unique role of providing services to infants/toddlers and their families.
- 3 Engages in interactions and demonstrates practice with children, families, and practitioners reflective of a strengths-based, family-centered, relationship-based approach.
- 4 Collaborates with families to nurture healthy development, learning, mental health and well-being within and between infant and toddler social and cultural contexts.
- 5 Employs a developmental approach to understanding and collaborating with families of infants and toddlers.
- 6 Plans and implements collaborative learning opportunities, in partnership with families, that are supportive of the healthy development, learning, mental health and well-being of infants and toddlers.
- 7 Designs and advocates for program policies and practices that support a collaborative team approach, with families as essential partners, in supporting the healthy development, learning, mental health and well-being of infants and toddlers.
- 8 Develops responsive, reciprocal relationships with families that support and promote parenting self-efficacy.

ITC PPD | Personal and Professional Development

- 1 Identifies own strengths, opportunities for growth, and values regarding working with infants and toddlers and their families.
- 2 Uses relationship-based strategies to develop and maintain positive, responsive, respectful relationships with families.
- 3 Identifies contextual factors that influence infants, toddlers and their families and implications for practice.
- 4 Identifies and incorporates knowledge and skills provided through evidence-based resources into practice.
- 5 Designs and participates in collaborative systems and proactive, visionary leadership that ensures the healthy functioning of the infant and toddler programming and the young children and families served.
- 6 Develops responsive, reciprocal relationships with practitioners that support and promote professional self-efficacy.
- 7 Demonstrates behavior supportive of continued growth and development as a professional member of the infant/toddler field (inclusive of families).
- 8 Employs effective data collection processes and monitoring systems to track individual progress, assure follow up, and monitor the coordination of service delivery within and across sectors of the infant/toddler field (inclusive of families).
- 9 Engages in inter-agency collaboration to ensure children and families receive appropriate, coordinated services.