



Early Educator Certification was offered at reduced fees for three years supported by the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant to encourage full participation in the system by early education professionals.

The N.C. Institute for Child Development Professionals is the certifying body for early educators in North Carolina. Early Educator Certification is a system for professionals working with or on the behalf of children ages birth to 12, which acknowledges an individual's verified level of educational achievement. As with other occupations, Early Educator Certification recognizes and validates the educational accomplishments of its workforce. Individuals, children, programs, and society benefit when the education of those working in a profession increases and is known by all its consumers - families, employers, legislators, business and industry, funders, and more.

An Early Educator Certification level is assigned using the education documentation submitted and a standardized scale. Early Educator Certification is issued by the N.C. Institute for Child Development Professionals. Being certified recognizes and validates educational accomplishments. The goal was to enhance the profession through individual certification, but also to support facility licensure by the N.C. Division of Child Development and Early Education since Early Educator Certification levels may now be used as verified documentation for teacher education points within the rated license.

Early Educator Certification

PARTNERS



“I am so proud to have this certification and plan to take additional courses.”
– Group Leader

Early Educator Certification

Total Number Certified: Applicants were required to work with, on behalf of, or intend to work with children ages birth to five to qualify for the reduced fee.

- **5,550 early educators were certified over this three-year period (3,345 initial and 2,205 renewal).** An additional 648 applied and qualified for support, but either did not complete the initial application process or did not meet renewal requirements.
- A total of 11,799 early educators held an active certification by the end of the project.

Early Educator Certification provides:

- A certificate to demonstrate your certification level
- Access to discounts on goods and services for certified Early Educators
- The field with professional recognition, like other professions
- Employers with point of hire documentation, reducing their costs and increasing the time they can spend operating their business and working with families, teachers, and children
- Families with a tool to tell them about the education of who is working with their child
- Programs with a marketing strategy for advertising that their program is staffed with certified teachers

For more information about the Early Educator Endorsement, go to <http://ncicdp.org/>.

Funded by the State of North Carolina through a federal Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant (<http://earlylearningchallenge.nc.gov>).