

*Is the CDA
program **Right** for you?*

Taking a CDA prep course is a big commitment on top of a job that requires long hours meeting the many needs of young children and managing your household.

However, working towards a CDA Credential can be a rewarding experience. It offers child care providers an opportunity to:

- Take a look at their own work in relation to national standards
- Get feedback and support from people who have experience with child care and knowledge about child development
- Improve their skills in ways that are satisfying for themselves and beneficial for children
- Earn a professional Credential that is recognized by early childhood educators nationwide

Now is the time to improve your teaching skills for yourself and the children you serve.

Classes are:

- September through March
- A total of 120 hours of training
- Small group and individualized training.
- Help with your competency goals and resource file.
- Class size is limited to 15

Fee:

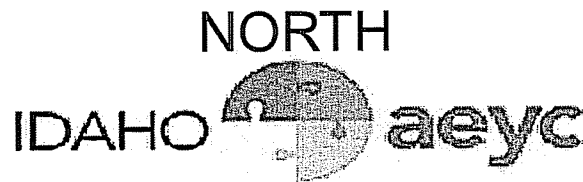
- \$350.00 for Course 1 (September 20—December 31, 2007)
- \$350.00 for Course 2 (January 2, 2008 to March 31, 2008)
- \$325.00 CDA Application fee

Total cost for CDA assessment—
\$1,025.00

Scholarship resources:

IdahoSTARS (must be IdahoStars enrolled)
TEACH (scholarship for application fee)

Sponsored by:



Joining together for Quality Early Care and Education

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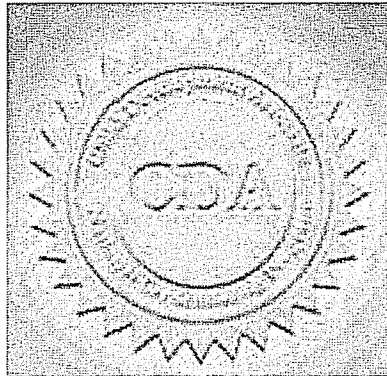
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Association for the
Education of Young
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**Child Development
Associate
Coursework**



About the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential

The Child Development Associate (CDA) credential is a nationally awarded and recognized credential in the field of early care and education. To obtain a CDA, an individual must complete 120 hours of training in 8 major competency areas and successfully complete a CDA assessment. The credential demonstrates that an individual is able to meet the specific needs of a



child and work with parents or other adults to nurture the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth of a child. CDA students can specialize and complete credentialing procedures in one of the following areas:

- ❖Preschool Center-Based
- ❖Infant/Toddler Center-Based
- ❖Family Child Care

For additional information go to www.cdacouncil.org

Eligibility

To be eligible for the program, you must currently work with children or wish to pursue a career working with children. Also, you must have an opportunity to work with children during the training.

Prior to applying for the national CDA assessment, you must:

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Have 480 hours of experience working with children within the past 5 years.
- Have 120 hours of formal early childhood education

Research shows that young children must have good teachers and caregivers from the very start if they are to be confident, secure adults. This early care and education also helps them to be more successful throughout their total educational cycle, from elementary school through high school and beyond.

Children learn best through play and experiences planned by knowledgeable and skilled teachers. This CDA course has been designed to support this proven principle. It is based upon national standards for developmentally appropriate practice and the 8 CDA competency areas.

An early childhood educator is a special person in children's lives as they master skills, develop friendships, grow in independence, and move to new levels of

thinking and understanding about themselves and the world. It is an exciting and challenging responsibility to set up a supportive learning environment for a group of children, develop a relationship with each one, and meet their needs as individuals and as a group. Children's learning experiences during this period in their lives can increase their self-confidence and readiness for school.

The course will prepare you for the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential Competency Goals including:

- Growth and Development
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Health, Safety, and Nutrition
- Learning Environment
- Working with Families
- Professionalism
- Observation and Assessment
- Relationships and Guidance
- Planning Learning Experiences

Nothing is more important to a child's development than proper nurturing, care and education during the early years. And nothing is more rewarding than knowing you were instrumental in helping to guide and shape a young life.

Contact person: **Cathy Kowalski**
208/777-0389

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He who teaches children learns more than they do.—German Proverb