

Kentucky

Early Care & Education Professional Career Pathway

LEVEL 1

1.1

State-issued Badge (i.e. Infant/Toddler, School-Age) OR 2 years of experience*

1.2

KCTCS Early Childhood Entry Level Certificate OR Commonwealth Child Care Credential

1.3

State-Issued Microcredential-Level 1 (i.e. Infant/Toddler, School-Age)

2.1

KCTCS Early Childhood Administrator Certificate OR <https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dccbs/dcc/Pages/professionaldevelopment.aspx> OR KCTCS Early Childhood Educator Certificate OR 10 years of experience*

2.2

Child Development Associate (i.e. Infant/Toddler, Preschool, Birth-Five, Family Child Care, Home-Visitor, Military School-Age) OR State-issued Microcredential-Level 2 OR KCTCS School-Age Child Care Certificate

2.3

Early Childhood Development Specialist Journey Worker Credential OR KCTCS IECE Technical Studies Certificate

LEVEL 2

3.1

Associate's Degree in non-related field **and** 10 years of experience* OR Early Childhood Educator Journey Worker Credential OR Early Childhood Student Support Specialist OR KCTCS Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education Diploma OR Associate Montessori Infant-Toddler Certification Credential OR Associate Montessori Early Childhood Certification Credential OR 20 years of experience*

3.2

Associate's Degree in Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education OR Associate's Degree in related field **and** 1 year of experience* OR Associate's Degree in non-related field **and** 3 years of experience or any Level 2 requirements OR Early Childhood Administrator Director Journey Worker Credential

3.3

State-issued Microcredential-Level 3: Option A OR Associate's Degree and Early Childhood Administrator Director Journey Worker Credential

LEVEL 4

4.1

Bachelor's Degree in non-related field and 10 years of experience* OR Full Montessori Infant-Toddler Certification Credential OR Full Montessori Early Childhood Certification Credential

4.2

Bachelor's Degree in Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (teaching certification and non-teaching certification) OR Bachelor's Degree with Alternative Certification (i.e. Option 9) OR Bachelor's Degree in related field **and** 1 year of experience* OR Bachelor's Degree in non-related field and 3 years of experience or any Level 2 requirements

4.3

Bachelor's Degree **and** Early Childhood Administrator Director Journey Worker Credential OR State-issued Microcredential - Level 3: Option B

LEVEL 5

5.1

Master's Degree in non-related field and 10 years of experience*

5.2

Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education OR Master's Degree with Alternative Certification (i.e. Option 6 or Proficiency Evaluation) OR Master's Degree in related field and 1 year of experience* OR Master's Degree in non-related field and 3 years of experience or any Level 2 requirements OR Master's Degree **and** Early Childhood Administrator Director Journey Worker Credential

5.3

Doctoral Degree in Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education OR Doctoral Degree in related field and 1 year of experience*



*Experience must be in a licensed child care program, Head Start program, after school program, or state-funded preschool. You may be asked to have employment experience verified.

**The levels within the early childhood career pathway are designed to be flexible, allowing individuals to progress non-linearly based on experience, education, and demonstrated competencies

For more information about the career pathway, visit <https://kyecac.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx>