

Virginia Early Childhood and Infant/Toddler Certificates

What are they? These are credit-bearing certificates that have been approved by the Office of Head Start to meet the CDA requirements defined in the Head Start Act for teacher assistants and Early Head Start staff. They are designed for people who want to continue their college education. This certificate is one option among several, including the traditional CDA and the Virginia Department of Labor apprenticeship program, for meeting these requirements.

How do I get one? You must go through your local community college to apply for this certificate. The steps are as follows:

1. Enroll as a student in any Virginia community college that offers early childhood classes.
2. Complete the following required classes (if your local college does not offer a course, you can take many of them on-line or through any other community college. Ask your ECE faculty):

Courses for Early Childhood Certificate
CHD 120: Introduction to Early Childhood Education (3 credits)
CHD 145: Teaching Art, Music and Movement (3 credits)
CHD 165: Observation and Participation in Early Childhood Settings (3 credits)
CHD 167: Resource File (CDA Theories and Applications: Resource File)
CHD 205: Guiding the Behavior of Young Children (3 credits)
EDU 235: Health, Safety and Nutrition Education (3 credits) / HLT 135

Courses for Infant Toddler Certificate
CHD 120: Introduction to Early Childhood Education (3 credits)
CHD 164: Working with Infants and Toddlers in Inclusive Settings
CHD 165: Observation and Participation in Early Childhood Settings (3 credits)
CHD 166: Infant and Toddler Programs
CHD 167: Resource File (CDA Theories and Applications: Resource File)
EDU 235: Health, Safety and Nutrition Education (3 credits) / HLT 135

3. Through CHD 167, you will complete the application and all of the forms, including the parent survey and verification of experience.
4. Your community college professor will complete a form verifying that you have satisfactorily met the requirements for the certificate.
5. The form will be mailed with your \$10.00 fee to the Virginia Head Start Collaboration Office (follow directions on the application form.)
6. Within one month, your application will be reviewed, verified and sent to the Virginia Department of Social Services, which will issue your certificate.

Why Pursue This Certificate? This certificate is an academic certificate designed for individuals who want to continue their college education. It does not need to be renewed since the credits earned are college credits. The credits from this certificate will apply to an AAS degree in ECE at Virginia community colleges that offer the degree. Credits may transfer for higher degrees based on articulation agreements between participating schools. Ask your ECE faculty if you are interested.