



# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (723)

Level 2 ECE Credential Certificate

## ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

This program helps students meet Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Licensing Standards for Assistant Teacher. If a student acquires 480 hours of experience in a licensed child care center, they may apply to the Child Development Associate National Credentialing Program for Child Development Associate Credential. The CDA Credential allows holders to work in DCFS-licensed programs as a Teacher. CDA applicants receive advising from qualified HCC staff in the credentialing process during the Practicum.

The State of Illinois has adopted a career lattice system, creating a seamless framework for professionals to develop. At Highland Community College, we will offer the [Level 2, 3, and 4 Early Childhood Education Credentials](#), [Level 2, 3 and 4 Infant and Toddler Credentials](#), and the [Level I Director Credential](#) within the Illinois Gateways to Opportunity system. These credentials promote access to varied career opportunities within the field, as well as opportunities to transfer to a four-year program to continue courses of study. Students interested in pursuing a Gateways to Opportunity Credential need to speak with the Coordinator of the ECE program regarding specific course requirements to qualify for credentials.

## NATURE OF WORK AND EMPLOYMENT

Level 2 Credential Certificate holders work in licensed child care programs, as assistant teachers. Family Child Care Providers are encouraged to use this program to upgrade their own training and preparation.

## SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Certificate students must demonstrate good physical and emotional health and submit to a criminal background check before beginning any Practicum. CDA applicants should notify the program coordinator (below) of their intentions early in their coursework.

## PROGRAM CONTACTS

Call Highland at 815-235-6121 for the following program contacts:

- Mr. Scott Anderson, Dean of Business & Technology
- Ms. Melissa Johnson, Coordinator of Early Childhood Ed
- Ms. Vicki Schulz, Student Advisor

## Required Child-Care Courses

* ECE	121	Intro to Early Childhood Education	3
* ECE	123	Hlth, Safety, & Nutrition of Yng Chld	3
ECE	126	Observation & Guidance of Young Child	3
* ECE	128	Practicum II	2
* ECE	203	Home, Scl, & Comm Relations in EC	3
*		Communications (BUSN 141, COMM 101, ENGL 121)	3

**Total Hours = 17**

\* Course has a prerequisite. See course descriptions.