

Gateways to Opportunity® Family Child Care (FCC) Credential Framework

	EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS	COLLEGE EDUCATION & TRAINING REQUIRED COMPETENCIES IN EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION OR SCHOOL-AGE	COLLEGE EDUCATION & TRAINING REQUIRED COMPETENCIES FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS	WORK & PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN FAMILY CHILD CARE	
LEVEL 5	Bachelor's Degree	ECE or SAYD Credential Level 4 or higher	<i>Must meet all previous level competencies plus:</i> FCC Leadership and Advocacy (LA6, LA7) FCC Business (BUS6, BUS7) [12 points]	100 hours of supervised experience in Family Child Care or 3,600 hours of documented Family Child Care work experience	LEVEL 5
LEVEL 4	Associate's Degree or 60+ semester hours	ECE or SAYD Credential Level 3 or higher	<i>Must meet all previous level competencies plus:</i> FCC Leadership and Advocacy (LA2, LA3, LA4, LA5) FCC Business (BUS3, BUS4, BUS5) FCC Environment Management (EM9) [9 points]	50 hours of supervised experience in Family Child Care or 1,200 hours of documented Family Child Care work experience	LEVEL 4
LEVEL 3	Three semester hours in each: Any Math, English, and General Education electives (Psychology, Sociology, Science, etc.) <i>(These 9 hours must be credit bearing and nondevelopmental 100 level +)</i>	ECE or SAYD Credential Level 2 or higher	<i>Must meet all previous level competencies plus:</i> FCC Leadership and Advocacy (LA1) FCC Business (BUS2) FCC Environment Management (EM7, EM8) [6 points]	10 hours of supervised experience in Family Child Care or 600 hours of documented Family Child Care work experience	LEVEL 3
LEVEL 2	High School Diploma or GED	Options: ECE or SAYD Credential Level 2 or higher or ECE Human Growth and Development (ECE HGD1, ECE HGD2, ECE HGD3) ECE Health, Safety, and Well-Being (ECE HSW1, ECE HSW2) or A valid Infant Toddler, Preschool or Family Child Care CDA or Completion of ECE Level 1 or SAYD Level 1 and ExceleRate® Illinois Bronze Circle of Quality Trainings	FCC Business (BUS1) FCC Environment Management (EM1, EM2, EM3, EM4, EM5, EM6) [3 points]	5 hours of observation in Family Child Care or 200 hours of documented Family Child Care environment experience	LEVEL 2

The Family Child Care CDA meets these FCC competencies: LA1, BUS1, EM1, EM3, EM4 and ECE FCR1 and ECE PPD1.

A valid home day care license issued in your name by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) meets FCC BUS 1.

At any level up to 7 competencies (total) may be documented through credential approved training

Family Child Care Credential (FCC) Competencies

FCC LA | Leadership and Advocacy

- 1 Identifies policies, legislation, issues and trends, and community connections and resources supportive of children, families, family child care programs, and the family child care professional.
- 2 Identifies strategies that support the development of collaborative relationships between family child care programs, families, and community agencies.
- 3 Identifies strategies that support the development of collaborative partnerships between family child care programs, families, and community agencies.
- 4 Advocates for policies, regulations, and safeguards that support family child care quality improvement, alignment and high quality programming that is responsive to the development and learning of all young children and families served within family child care homes.
- 5 Demonstrates professionalism through participation in collaborative decision-making and extending caring and compassion to colleagues and families in the community.
- 6 Provides leadership and guidance by demonstrating dispositions reflective of the needs of others, and displays mature family child care skills for leadership.
- 7 Advocates for quality, excellence, and professionalism within and on behalf of the family child care community.

FCC BUS | Business

- 1 Identifies describes and implements at a basic level procedures and practices that ensure safety, protection and health in the family child care environment.
- 2 Describes appropriate identification and evaluation strategies for business, security, and technology systems supportive of family child care business management.
- 3 Describes relevant standards of practices, codes of conduct, state and federal regulations and procedural safeguards, and outlines family child care plans for compliance.
- 4 Develops effective fiscal, organizational, and financial goals and plans, marketing materials, and human resource documents to successfully operate family child care programs.
- 5 Develops effective family child care business plan for increasing competencies and application of professional standards in business ethics, legal and regulatory oversight, and administrative management.
- 6 Uses professional knowledge to implement and evaluate program administration, organizational planning, human resource management, program operation and facilities management, and professional evaluation in written goals and business practices in family child care settings.
- 7 Uses research-based and ethical standards in choosing and facilitating technology use and security for family child care program management, professional development, and quality improvement.

FCC EM | Environment Management

- 1 Identifies and describes materials, furniture and space in the family child care environment that allow children of different ages to play and explore safely during the child care day and family members to eat, relax, or work as desired during evenings and weekends.
- 2 Explains routines and schedules for transitioning between different uses of family child care spaces at different times of the day.
- 3 Describes and explains the social environment of family child care to build a program community where children and families feel a sense of group belonging where they are nurtured and appreciated.
- 4 Chooses and organizes materials, furniture and space in the family child care environment that allow children of different ages to play and explore safely during the child care day and family members to eat, relax, or work as desired during evenings and weekends.
- 5 Develops routines and schedules for transitioning between different uses of family child care spaces at different times of the day.
- 6 Identifies selection and incorporation guidelines and procedures for utilizing technology in the family child care environment which includes safe, secure, and age-appropriate procedures, content, and limits for children birth through age 8*.
- 7 Chooses developmentally appropriate technology for use in the family child care environment which includes safe, secure, and age-appropriate procedures, content, and limits for children birth through age 8*.
- 8 Chooses appropriate recordkeeping, communication and management technology tools for use in the family child care environment which are safe, secure, and accessible.
- 9 Creates a social environment of family child care to build a program community where children and families feel a sense of group belonging where they are nurtured and appreciated.

**Also may apply to children up to age 12 for those working in out-of-school settings.*