

Gateways to Opportunity® Family Child Care Credential Framework

Family Child Care Credential	Education Requirements	Education and Training in ECE and/or School-Age	Education and Training in Family Child Care	Work and Practical Experience in ECE and/or School-Age	Work and Practical Experience in Family Child Care	Professional Contributions in Family Child Care
Level 5	Bachelor's Degree	24 points in ECE/School-Age Content Areas <i>(of level 5 benchmarks)</i> – of which a maximum of 6 points may be from Credential approved training(s)	12 points in Family Child Care Content Areas <i>(of level 5 benchmarks)</i> – of which a maximum of 6 points may be from Credential approved training(s) A minimum of 1 point in all 4 content areas	200 hours of ECE/School-Age supervised experience or 1200 hours of documented ECE/School-Age work experience*	100 hours of supervised experience in Family Child Care or 3600 hours of documented Family Child Care work experience	Required at Renewal
Level 4	Associate's Degree or 60+ semester hours <i>(including the 9 semester hours listed at level 3)</i>	21 points in ECE/School-Age Content Areas <i>(of level 2-4 benchmarks)</i> – of which a maximum of 6 points may be from Credential approved training(s)	9 points in Family Child Care Content Areas <i>(of level 2-4 benchmarks)</i> – of which a maximum of 6 points may be from Credential approved training(s) A minimum of 1 point in 3 content areas, including FCEM	100 hours of ECE/School-Age supervised experience or 600 hours of documented ECE/School-Age work experience*	50 hours of supervised experience in Family Child Care or 1200 hours of documented Family Child Care work experience	Required at Renewal
Level 3	Three semester hours: Any Math, English, and General Education electives (Psychology, Sociology, Science, etc.) <i>(These 9 hours must be credit bearing and nondevelopmental 100 level +)</i>	12 points in ECE/School-Age Content Areas <i>(of level 2-4 benchmarks)</i> – of which a maximum of 6 points may be from Credential approved training(s) A minimum of 1 point in Curriculum and Program Design and content areas noted in Level 2	6 points in Family Child Care Content Areas <i>(of level 2-4 benchmarks)</i> – of which a maximum of 6 points may be from Credential approved training(s) A minimum of 1 point in 2 content areas, including FCEM	10 hours of ECE/School-Age supervised experience or 400 hours of documented ECE/School-Age work experience*	10 hours of supervised experience in Family Child Care or 600 hours of documented Family Child Care work experience	Required at Renewal
Level 2	High School Diploma or GED	6 points in ECE/School-Age Content Areas <i>(of level 2-4 benchmarks)</i> – 3 points in Human Growth and Development and 3 points in Health, Safety, and Well-Being of which 3 points may be from Credential approved training(s) or a CDA, CCP, or Montessori Credential through AMS** or Completion of ECE Level 1 or SAYD Level 1 and ExceleRate® Illinois Bronze Circle of Quality Trainings	3 points in Family Child Care Content Areas <i>(of level 2-4 benchmarks)</i> – of which a maximum of 3 points may be from Credential approved training(s) A minimum of 1 point in Family Child Care Environment Management (FCEM)	10 hours of ECE/School-Age observation or 200 hours of documented ECE/School-Age work experience*	5 hours of observation in Family Child Care or 200 hours of documented Family Child Care environment experience	Required at Renewal
Level 1	Gateways ECE Credential Level 1 and/or School-Age and Youth Development Credential Level 1 are awarded through completion of a 48 clock hour training available through local Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies Statewide.					

Guide: A point is equivalent to one semester hour of college credit.

*Work and Practical Experience hours may be met in any of the following programs: family child care, center based, and/or School-Age.

**American Montessori Society (AMS) Early Childhood and Infant Toddler Credentials.

Gateways Family Child Care Credential – Guidelines

This guideline sheet provides additional information regarding the Gateways Credential requirements. Information is also available on the Gateways to Opportunity website at www.ilgateways.com.

Family Child Care Credential Level 2:

- Education and Training in ECE and/or School-Age
 - **Option A:** 6 points in ECE/School-Age Content Areas of which a minimum of three points is required in the content areas of:
 - Human Growth and Development
 - Health, Safety, and Well-Being
 - Three points total may come from Credential approved trainings.
 - **Option B:** CDA, CCP, or Montessori Credential through AMS*
 - **Option C:** Completion of ECE Level 1 or SAYD Level 1 AND ExceleRate® Illinois Bronze Circle Trainings*
- *Note: Option B and C may only be used at the Level 2.
- Education and Training in Family Child Care
 - 3 points in Family Child Care Content Areas of which one point must be in Family Child Care Environment Management
 - All three points may come from Credential approved trainings.

Family Child Care Credential Level 3:

- A minimum of one point each is required in the ECE/School-Age Content Areas of:
 - Human Growth and Development
 - Health, Safety, and Well-Being
 - Curriculum or Program Design
- A minimum of one point is required in two of the Family Child Care Content Areas, including:
 - Family Child Care Environment Management

Family Child Care Credential Levels 4:

- A minimum of one point is required in each of the seven ECE and/or School-Age Content Areas.
- A minimum of one point is required in three of the Family Child Care Content Areas, including:
 - Family Child Care Environment Management

Family Child Care Credential Level 5:

- A minimum of one point is required in each of the seven ECE and/or School-Age Content Areas.
- A minimum of one point is required in each of the four Family Child Care Content Areas.

General Credential Information:

- One point is equivalent to 1 semester hour of college coursework, 1.5 quarter hours of college coursework, and/or 15 consecutive contact hours of Credential approved training.
- A Credential approved training must be at least 7.5 consecutive contact hours in length, cover one Content Area, and contain an assessment component. Each 7.5 consecutive contact hour training may be worth ½ of a point.
- Gateways Credentials are valid for five years. For more information on what is needed to renew the Gateways Family Child Care Credential, please see the renewal section of the Gateways website at www.ilgateways.com.