

Gateways to Opportunity® Infant Toddler Credential Framework

ECE Levels	Education Requirements	Education and Training in Early Care & Education	Work and Practical Experience in Early Care & Education	Professional Contributions in Early Care & Education	ITC Levels	Education and Training in Infants & Toddlers	Work and Practical Experience in Infants & Toddlers
Level 6	Graduate Degree	30 points in ECE Content Areas of which a maximum of 6 points may be from Credential approved training, and 3 of those 6 points may come from assessment of prior learning	Minimum of 200 hours of ECE supervised experience or 1200 total hours of documented ECE work experience	Six professional contributions within the last five years, of which two must target infants, toddlers, and their families.	Level 6	18 points in IT specific education of which 6 points must be from graduate level IT coursework. 2 points must be in Infant Mental Health, and a maximum of 6 points may be from IT Credential approved training	3,600 hours of documented experience with Infants, Toddlers, and their families
Level 5	Bachelor's Degree	30 points in the ECE Content Areas <i>(of level 5 benchmarks)</i> – of which a maximum of 6 points may be from Credential approved training	Minimum of 200 hours of ECE supervised experience or 1200 total hours of documented ECE work experience	Required at Renewal	Level 5	12 points in specific Infant and Toddler education and approved training, of which a maximum of 6 points may be from IT Credential approved training	100 hours of supervised experience with Infants, Toddlers, and their families or 1800 hours of documented IT work experience
		A Professional Educator License with endorsement in Early Childhood Education meets these requirements					
Level 4	Associate's Degree or 60+ semester hours (including the 9 semester hours listed at level 3)	24 points in the ECE Content Areas <i>(of level 2-4 benchmarks)</i> – of which a maximum of 3 points may be from Credential approved training <i>(must include 20 clock hours of ECE observation)</i>	100 total hours of ECE supervised experience or 600 total hours of documented ECE work experience	Required at Renewal	Level 4	6 points in specific Infant and Toddler education and approved training, of which a maximum of 3 points may be from IT Credential approved training	50 hours of supervised experience with Infants, Toddlers, and their families or 900 hours of documented IT work experience
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>	18 points in the ECE Content Areas <i>(of level 2-4 benchmarks)</i> – of which a maximum of 3 points may be from Credential approved training <i>(must include 20 clock hours of ECE observation)</i>	10 hours of ECE supervised experience or 400 total hours of documented ECE work experience	Required at Renewal	Level 3	6 points in specific Infant and Toddler education and approved training, of which a maximum of 3 points may be from IT Credential approved training	10 hours of supervised experience with Infants, Toddlers, and their families or 450 hours of documented IT work experience
Level 2	High School Diploma or GED	12 points in the ECE Content Areas <i>(of level 2-4 benchmarks)</i> – 3 points in Human Growth and Development, 3 points in Health Safety and Well-Being, and 6 points from ECE electives or 6 points in ECE electives and a CDA, CCP, or Montessori Credential through AMS* 3 points may be from Credential approved training or the ECE Credential Level 1	10 hours of ECE observation or 200 hours of documented ECE work experience	Required at Renewal	Level 2	3 points in specific Infant and Toddler education and approved training, of which all 3 points may be from IT Credential approved training	5 hours of supervised experience with Infants, Toddlers, and their families or 200 hours of documented IT work experience
		Effective July, 2016, 4 additional points required from general or ECE specific education					

*American Montessori Society (AMS) Early Childhood and Infant Toddler Credentials count for a maximum of 6 points of credential approved training for the ECE, Infant Toddler Credential, or Illinois Director Credential.