

The Child Care Professional

March 2001

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WKU Child Care Resource & Referral

Covering the counties of Allen, Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Logan, Metcalfe, Monroe, Simpson, and Warren

Child Development Associate Credential

Written by Kim McIntyre
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Congratulations to NAEYC Accredited Child Care Centers

Written by Sherri Meyer, Coordinator

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is the nation's largest organization of early childhood educators. This organization is dedicated to improving the quality of programs for children birth to age eight.

NAEYC offers a voluntary program nationally for all types of programs. As of December 2000 there were over 7,500 programs that serve over a half million children which are accredited through NAEYC.

In order to achieve NAEYC accreditation, a child care program must undergo a self-study, a validation visit, and an accreditation decision.

Congratulations go out to **Brownsville Child Care Center/Little Treasures #2** in Brownsville and **Children's House Montessori** in Bowling Green for achieving their NAEYC accreditation in February!!!

For more information on NAEYC accreditation, visit their web site at www.NAEYC.org.

Look inside
for Training
Registration
Information
for New and
Experienced
Child Care
Employee
Training for
March!

What is a CDA?

- The CDA is a national credential awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition in Washington, D.C. to child care providers or family child care providers, who have demonstrated their skill in working with young children and their families by successfully completing the CDA assessment process.

- The recipient of the CDA credential is a person who is able to meet specific needs of children, and who, with parents and other adults, works to nurture children's physical, emotional, and intellectual growth in a child development framework.

CDA Eligibility Requirements:

Personal

- 18 years of age or older
- Hold a High School diploma or equivalent
- Able to speak, read, and write well enough to fulfill the responsibilities of a CDA candidate
- Sign a statement of ethical conduct

Setting

- A CDA can be earned by working in a certified or licensed family child care or a licensed child care center.

Experience

Candidates must have had, within the past five years, at least 480 hours of experience working with children in a group setting.

Education

Candidates must have completed 120 clock

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(continued from page 1, column 2, CDA)

hours of formal child care education within the past five years, with no fewer than ten hours in each of the eight subject areas. This requirement may be met through participation in the wide variety of training available in the field, including in-service. All formal education hours must be under the auspices of an agency or organization with expertise in early childhood teacher preparation. Training obtained at conferences or from individual consultants may not count. Education could be for college credit or for no credit.

How Do You Get a CDA?

- **Step 1:** Earn **480 hours of experience** working with children within the age range for which you are applying to earn a CDA.
- **Step 2:** Purchase a **Packet of Application materials** (\$18) from the Council for Early Childhood Recognition or obtain from the CCR&R.
- **Step 3:** Earn **120 hours of training** from an authorized agency, with at least ten hours in each of the eight subject areas.
- **Step 4:** Prepare a **Professional Resource File**, including an autobiographical statement of three hundred words telling who you are and what influenced you to work with children, a formal resume, written examples (200 to 500 words) of competence in each of the six CDA areas, and a collection of seventeen resource materials.
- **Step 5:** **Choose an advisor** to conduct the formal observation using the **CDA Assessment Observation Instrument**.
- **Step 6:** Distribute and collect the **Parent Opinion Questionnaires**.
- **Step 7:** Obtain and submit the **KIDS NOW Mini-Grant Application** to pay for the \$325 Direct Assessment fee three months in advance of sending the Direct Assessment Application Form to the Council for Professional Recognition.
- **Step 8:** Complete and mail the **Direct**

Don't forget to help enroll a child in **free health insurance!** For more information call 1-877-KCHIP-18.

Assessment Application to the Council for Professional Recognition.

- **Step 9: Verification visit** by the Council Representative to conduct the **Early Childhood Studies Review (oral interview, multiple choice written assessment, resource file review, review of CDA assessment observation instrument, and review of the Parent Opinion Questionnaires)**.

For the Direct Assessment Application date of December 1, the Verification Visit will occur in the 1st Quarter: January, February, or March.

For the Direct Assessment Application date of March 1, the Verification Visit will occur in the 2nd Quarter: April, May or June.

For the Direct Assessment Application date of June 1, the Verification Visit will occur in the 3rd Quarter: July, August, or September.

For the Direct Assessment Application date of September 1, the Verification Visit will occur in the 4th Quarter: October, November, or December.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Alissa Nealy**, of LaPetite Academy, for recently earning a Pre-school CDA credential. Keep up the good work as Early Childhood Professionals! For more information on the CDA credential, Second Setting CDA credentials or CDA Renewal information, please call Kim McIntyre, the WKU CCR&R Professional Development Coordinator.

KIDS NOW CDA Mini-Grant Applications may be obtained from our website at www.wku.edu/TTAS



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Managing requires setting aside ones ego
To encourage and develop the work of others.
It requires a “big picture” and team perspective
Rather than an individual-achiever perspective.

From Child Care Information Exchange, 11/00—80
By Sue M. Brown, *Presstime*, March 1988.

Did you loose your newsletter? Did you loose your registration form? Do you need KIDS NOW CDA Mini-grant information? Well search no further! Just log on to our web page and print off the information that you need!

www.wku.edu/TTAS