



# Office of Children and Family Services

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## DIVISION OF CHILD CARE SERVICES POLICY STATEMENT

### **17-6**

### **Early Childhood Certificate Program**

**ID NUMBER:** 17-6

**TOPIC:** Early Childhood Certificate Program

**MODALITIES IMPACTED:** Child Day Care Centers

**APPLICABLE REGULATIONS:** Title 18 of the New York State Code of Rules & Regulations §§ 418-1.13(g) (2) (3)

**CONTACT:** Regional offices  
<http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/regionaloffices.asp>

**EFFECTIVE:** IMMEDIATELY

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### **THIS POLICY STATEMENT IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND CANCELS ALL PREVIOUS MEMOS OR STATEMENTS ON THIS TOPIC**

The purpose of this policy is to recognize the Early Childhood Certificate Program as an OCFS-recognized credential and as such, it meets the regulatory requirement needed for individuals to qualify for the position(s) of infant/toddler group teacher or preschool group teacher in a child day care center (DCC).

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) Division of Child Care Services has completed a review of New York State's community colleges' Early Childhood Certificate Program. OCFS recognizes that at many New York State community colleges, the **Early Childhood Certificate Program** credential requires 24-36 credits and thus exceeds the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, which is one way to satisfy the education requirement for the group teacher position for infant, toddler, and preschool age classes in DCCs. These Early Childhood Certificate Program requirements also include a practicum experience with children. Many colleges have access to child care programs on campus or close to campus. There, students may work with children under the supervision of site supervisors who are usually directors or teachers, and with field supervisors from the college who may conduct site visits to observe their students. A CDA is usually pursued by individuals already working in the field; the Early Childhood Certificate is designed for those preparing for future work in the field.

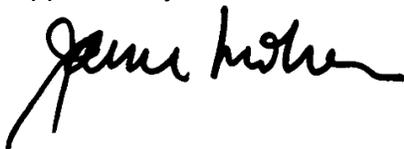
Based on the above, OCFS finds that academically, New York State community college Early Childhood Certificates are equivalent to one year of college. As such, OCFS will accept the Early Childhood Certificate Program credential from a New York State community college as meeting the education qualification to fill caregiving roles where the educational qualification includes an "other office-recognized credential" specific to infants, toddlers or pre-school age children as an option. Additionally, since a practicum involves working in the area of study and using the knowledge and skills that have been learned, the amount of time spent in practicum work during these programs will count toward the teaching experience requirement.

Any other Early Childhood Certificate Program credential from an academic institution that is not a New York State community college will be assessed on a case-by-case basis to see if it meets the relevant education qualification and to assess whether time spent in a practicum should count toward the teaching experience requirement for the position.

OCFS has been made aware of a number of colleges offering an Early Childhood Certificate including, but not limited to, those listed below. If you have questions about a certificate program and whether it meets the requirements above, contact your regional office.

<u>Certificate Title:</u>	<u>College:</u>
Early Childhood Caregiver:	Dutchess Community College
Child Care Certificate:	Genesee Community College
Early Child Care Certificate:	Onondaga Community College Monroe Community College
Early Childhood Care and Development:	Clinton Community College Orange County Community College
Early Childhood Studies	Adirondack Community College Niagara Community College
Early Childhood Certificate:	Broome Community College Cayuga Community College Corning Community College Fulton/Montgomery Community College Genesee Community College Schenectady Community College

Approved By:



Date: October 4, 2017

Janice M. Molnar, Ph.D.  
Deputy Commissioner