

Streamlined: Teaching Staff Qualifications Option Guide

NAEYC defines staff by the roles they fill within the class. Refer to the [Definition of Teaching Staff](#) for more information on these roles. Use the guide below as a reference to indicate the qualifications of teaching staff members on the following pages. Be sure to choose one option per teaching staff member, indicating the highest level of education obtained.

| Option | If the teaching staff member has this: qualification: | Meets qualification for: | Provide this documentation if needed: |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A | A current Child Development Associate (CDA) credential issued by the Council for Professional Recognition. | Assistant Teacher | A copy of currently valid CDA credential awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition |
| B | A CDA Credential equivalent as defined by NAEYC as at least 12 college credits in early childhood education, child development, elementary education, or early childhood special education. | Assistant Teacher | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a transcript documenting 12 ECE credits (<i>highlight credits</i>) OR documentation from a college/university that would grant a minimum of 12 credits for a specified training program OR military training modules |
| C | An associate's degree (AA) in early childhood education, child development, elementary education, or early childhood special education. | Assistant Teacher AND Lead Teacher | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a copy of the transcript that specifies major and reflects that the degree was earned (<i>highlight major</i>) AND/OR a copy of the diploma that lists the major field of study |
| D | The equivalency to an associate's degree (AA) in early childhood education, which is defined by NAEYC as at least 60 college/university credits with at least 30 college credits in early childhood education, child development, elementary education, or early childhood special education. | Assistant Teacher AND Lead Teacher | Transcripts documenting (<i>highlight credits</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> at least 60 college/university credits INCLUDING at least 30 credits in early childhood education, child development, elementary education, or early childhood special education |
| E | A baccalaureate degree (BA) in early childhood education, child development, elementary education, or early childhood special education. | Assistant Teacher AND Lead Teacher | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a copy of the transcript that specifies major and reflects that the degree was earned (<i>highlight major</i>) AND/OR a copy of the diploma that lists the major field of study |
| F | The equivalency to a baccalaureate degree (BA) or higher in early childhood education, which is defined by NAEYC as a baccalaureate degree in any discipline with at least 36 college credits in early childhood education, child development, elementary education, or early childhood special education. | Assistant Teacher AND Lead Teacher | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a copy of the diploma reflecting that the degree was completed AND a copy of a transcript reflecting a BA degree in any discipline, WITH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> at least 36 ECE related credits |
| G | A master degree (MA) or higher in early childhood education, child development, elementary education, or early childhood special education. | Assistant Teacher AND Lead Teacher | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a copy of the transcript that specifies major and reflects that the degree was earned (<i>highlight major</i>) AND/OR a copy of the diploma that lists the major field of study |