



**International Accreditation & Certification
of Childhood
Educators, Programs and Trainers**
Barry Building
2025 Woodbrook Court,
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901

Phone: 434-249-8488

sharon@iaccept.org

Web Site: www.iaccept.org

ELS
CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

APPLICATION

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CREDENTIAL
EARLY LEARNING SPECIALIST

INTRODUCTION

As the professional field of childhood education has rapidly expanded, the exigent or critical need for excellent child care and childhood education has also increased. Entering the 21st century, approximately four-fifths (4/5) of the nations' child care teaching staff do not have a college degree. Almost one third (1/3) of the teachers and half (1/2) of the assistant teachers have three years or less of child care experience. There is an estimated 1.5 million early childhood professionals. There are approximately 120,000 early childhood centers. Nine million families depend on child care centers.

In the pursuit of academic excellence, national educational objectives have recognized the need for improving childhood environments. In response, childhood programs have explored avenues supporting deserved recognition for their quality-enhanced performance. In their search for professional recognition, childhood programs desire to find that recognition from organizations that support their own philosophical approach to values and principles needed to provide quality care. Momentum is building as education and child care are linked.

To improve staff competencies, child care center and preschool staff should be encouraged to earn a childhood credential. Research has indicated there is a relationship between quality care and staff education. ("Cost, Quality, and Child Outcomes in Child Care Centers," 1995). In order to encourage career development, International Accreditation and Certification of Childhood Educators, Programs, and Trainers (IACCEPT) has developed training opportunities that lead to certification. There are three categories of childhood credentialing for those working directly with the following groups of children: Infant to 2 1/2 years, 2 1/2 years to through five years, 5 years through 11 years.

As training requirements increase, child care professionals are becoming proactive. They want to become well-trained and knowledgeable about the latest trends in child-related fields. Child care visionaries are actively engaged in making a difference by encouraging more parent involvement, offering more parental choices, and raising the standard of quality care. IACCEPT shares that vision.

The International Accreditation and Certification of Childhood Educators, Programs and Trainers (IACCEPT) is dedicated to raising the standard of excellence for individuals working in childhood settings. IACCEPT provides Early Learning Specialist (ELS) credentials to encourage childhood workers to raise the quality of care in childhood programs. The IACCEPT credentialing program identifies appropriate childhood and childhood education practices and assists individuals in implementing practical skills and knowledge to enhance the child care environment.

GOAL

The IACCEPT program goal is to provide linkage between training and formal education. Recognition is given to a variety of learning experiences achieved by the working professional. It allows individuals to improve skills while maintaining their employment in a child-related field. It also recognizes a variety of formal education, including but not limited to:

- credit or non credit courses in childhood education/child development
- vocational programs
- approved training agencies (armed forces, state licensing, and training agencies)
- approved first aid/CPR courses

- nationally recognized credential programs such as PS1, CCP, CDA credentials

PURPOSE

The purpose of the learning credential is:

- 1) to increase professional development in the fields of childhood and childhood education,
- 2) to provide recognition of enhanced childhood teacher qualifications, and
- 3) to encourage advancement in the career ladder of childhood education.

LEVELS OF CERTIFICATION

Certification of childhood educators is offered through the Early Learning Specialist (ELS). A separate application must be made for each level of certification. There are three levels of certification:

- 1) Early Learning Specialist - ELS 1 primary (basic)
- 2) Enhanced Learning Specialist – ELS 2 progressive (intermediate)
- 3) Management Specialist – MgtS pedagogue (scholarly).

Certificates are awarded for a one, two, or three year period to individuals meeting the ELS Criteria and one or more of the following levels of achievement. Certification is renewable.

CERTIFICATES AWARDED

- LEVEL 1: Primary - Beginning in child care field; demonstrates understanding of basic child development principles.
- LEVEL 2: Progressive - Demonstrates broad base of knowledge of childhood education and care.
- LEVEL 3: Pedagogue - Demonstrates a high degree of management skills, knowledge and commitment to the profession.

EDUCATIONAL/EXPERIENTAL

In certain circumstances, credit and/or waivers may be allowed for individuals who have met one or more of the following:

1. College credit in a child-related field
2. Validated experiential learning
3. Continuing education credits in a child-related field
4. IACCEP approval of independent courses of study
5. Verification of previous credentials earned such as PS1, CCP, CDA
6. Proof of certificates received for professionally recognized state and national level training in child-related topics as listed in the ESP Proficiencies.
7. Approved American Red Cross course certification

MAKING APPLICATION

The IACCEP Professional Standards Committee requires that your application to their

office be accompanied with official transcripts from each higher education institution you have attended. An official application form is included in this packet of information. Enclose with your application a check or a cashier's check or money order in the amount of the posted application fee payable to IACCEPT.

If you are making application and requesting educational/experiential credit and/or waivers, complete the Education/Experiential Credit and/or Waiver form. Make sure your name, the course or experience, test dates and test scores are all readable.

If you are enrolled in correspondence study, check with their office concerning the last day to get your final completed. If you are enrolled with an institution for your final semester, check with their transcript office as to the earliest date you may order official transcripts with your course grade posted. (When gaining the official transcripts from institutions you have attended, you may wish to order several transcripts and create a personal file to have them with your personal resume.) If an institution has a policy in which they will not forward transcripts directly to you, you may have them forward the transcript for your application to our office. Ask their office what date they anticipate that our office should receive the transcript and check with our office a day or so after that date to verify its arrival. If we have not received the transcript, you will need to re-contact the institution.

Our office staff can assist you with most certification questions. If they can not assist with your question, they will refer your call to the appropriate person.

PROCESS

1. Complete and submit application form. Submit recommendation by child care center director in support of the candidate. Submit documentation of prior training including college hours or clock hours of broad based training. (One semester hour of college = 15 clock hours).
2. Order study guide/exams.
3. Develop a professional portfolio, using portfolio guidelines.
4. Complete and submit evaluations including an impartial review of applicant's interaction with children.
5. Complete parent evaluation(s).
6. Submit a sample of required writing.
7. Submit plan for continuing professional development.
8. All correspondence should be mailed to:

Director of Teacher Certification
IACCEPT
Barry Building
2025 Woodbrook Court
Charlottesville, VA 22901



**International Accreditation & Certification
of Childhood
Educators, Programs and Trainers**

Barry Building
2025 Woodbrook Court,
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901

Phone: 434-249-8488

sharon@iaccept.org

Web Site: www.iaccept.org

APPLICATION FOR ELS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Name _____ Social Security # _____

Address _____ Home Phone # _____

_____ Business Phone # _____

Email Address: _____

EDUCATION

1. Circle the highest grade completed: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 Year Graduated _____

Name and Location of High School: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

2. If you did not complete high school, do you have a high school equivalency diploma?

() YES () NO Date Received _____

3. Circle number of years of education past high school 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Name & Location of School/College	Hrs.	Degree Received	Specialty	Minor	Dates Attended

EXPERIENCE: What child care center or other child-related work experience have you had?

A. JOB TITLE _____ JOB DUTIES _____

EMPLOYER _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

TYPE OF BUSINESS _____

IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR _____

DATES OF EMPLOYMENT FROM _____ TO _____

() FULL TIME () PART TIME

MAY WE CONTACT EMPLOYER FOR A REFERENCE? () YES () NO

B. JOB TITLE _____ JOB DUTIES _____

EMPLOYER _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____
 TYPE OF BUSINESS _____
 IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR _____
 DATES OF EMPLOYMENT FROM _____ TO _____
 () FULL TIME () PART TIME
 MAY WE CONTACT EMPLOYER FOR A REFERENCE? () YES () NO
(Use additional paper if more space is needed)

Additional information: Add any information you think would help us evaluate your application, including training, seminars, workshops, special achievements or specialized skills.

REFERENCES

List names, addresses and relationships to you of three people (not related to you) whom we may contact for information about your qualifications.

1. NAME: _____ HOME PHONE: _____
 ADDRESS: _____ WORK PHONE: _____
 TITLE: _____ COMPANY: _____
 RELATIONSHIP TO YOU: _____ YEARS KNOWN _____

2. NAME: _____ HOME PHONE: _____
 ADDRESS: _____ WORK PHONE: _____
 TITLE: _____ COMPANY: _____
 RELATIONSHIP TO YOU: _____ YEARS KNOWN _____

3. NAME: _____ HOME PHONE: _____
 ADDRESS: _____ WORK PHONE: _____
 TITLE: _____ COMPANY: _____
 RELATIONSHIP TO YOU: _____ YEARS KNOWN _____

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Have you ever been convicted of an offense (excluding minor traffic violations) ?
 () YES () NO
 If YES, explain _____

2. Do you have a driver's license? () YES () NO
 If YES, indicate the State and Number: _____

3. Please submit documentation to verify past work experience in a child-related field.

4. Are you currently employed in a child-related program? () YES () NO
 Describe the program and the type of work you perform in this setting:

DATE : _____ SIGNED : _____

**Mail to: IACCEPT EARLY LEARNING SPECIALIST PROGRAMS
 Barry Building, 2025 Woodbrook Court, Charlottesville, VA 22901**



**International Accreditation & Certification
of Childhood**

Educators, Programs and Trainers

Barry Building
2025 Woodbrook Court,
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901

Phone: 434-249-8488

sharon@iaccept.org

Web Site: www.iaccept.org

WAIVER REQUEST

Employee Name/IACCEP Applicant: _____

This is to verify that the above named employee has:

- participated this year in training provided by the Department of Social Services:
- training by ELS staff prior to application for certification
- Waivers for prior learning
- Waivers for prior experience
- Other: _____

Name of workshop _____

Clock hours _____ Date of Training _____

Name of Trainer _____

WAVIER FOR TRAINING OTHER THAN IACCEP TRAINING

TYPE OF TRAINING (Copy of documentation required)

- College course
- Workshops
- On the job training Orientation Other _____
- First Aid/CPR/EMT/OTHER
- Nursing CNA
- Childhood Certification such as CDA, PS1, etc.

WAVIER FOR PRIOR CHILD CARE AND/OR MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE:

Organization providing training _____

Clock hours _____ Date of Training _____

Name of Trainer _____

Qualifications of Trainer _____

I verify that documentation of this training is in the employee's files

Director's Signature: _____ Date _____