

Lead Teacher Equivalency Options

Child care lead teachers are required to have the NC Early Childhood Credential (NCECC) OR to meet one of five equivalency options listed below.

Option 1 Tested out of the Division of Child Development NCECC standardized equivalency test prior to January 1, 2008. [This testing is no longer offered.]

Option 2 Completed and hold a currently active nationally accredited credential certificate in child development, early childhood education or child care, to include CDA, CCP, and AMS or AMI Montessori, that meets the following criteria:

- 1) Nationally accredited and available in all 50 states, 2) Comprehensive in scope which is inclusive of the following six areas: child growth and development; professionalism; health and safety; creation of appropriate environments that enhance physical, emotional, social and cognitive development; developmentally appropriate learning activities; and working with families, 3) 120 clock (contact) hours of education and/or training, 4) Formal observation and/or portfolio assessment, 5) Standardized written assessment, and 6) Individually earned.

Option 3 Completed a post-secondary two-year degree or higher in Early Childhood, Child Development, Human Growth & Development or Early Childhood Special Education from an accredited* institution of higher education.

Option 4 Completed a post-secondary two-year degree or higher in any subject area with at least six (6) semester credit hours (sch)** in specific Early Childhood Education and/or Child Growth & Development coursework from an accredited* institution of higher education.

Option 5 Completed 12 sch (with or without a degree) in Early Childhood, Child Development, Human Growth & Development and/or Early Childhood Special Education programs with at least three (3) sch** in Child Growth & Development from an accredited* institution of higher education. [For any coursework over 10 years old to be counted, you must have earned a certificate, diploma or degree or be currently enrolled in a degree program with credit given on a current official transcript for this older coursework.]

For each of these options, after the required semester credit hours have been met, any additional applicable coursework will be counted as extra hours.

***Accredited** is defined as an institution of higher education having nationally recognized regional accreditation by one of the six regional accrediting agencies. (For schools outside the U.S.A., the recognized system of the specified country's accreditation process will be accepted.)

****Criteria** for approving courses in Early Childhood Education and Child Growth & Development for the required six (6) sch in **Option 4** and the specific three (3) sch required in **Option 5**:

- 1) Course content will emphasize:
 - a) developmental understanding of young children, and/or
 - b) developmentally appropriate educational approaches for the early years.
- 2) When course content meets criteria 1) but the course title is not early childhood or age-specific, the course description will need to indicate that the course focuses on:
 - a) ages between birth and five years, and/or
 - b) the early years, early childhood, preschool, young children.