

CDA required coursework



Required reading

Readings from the following three books are required to complete the Better Kid Care CDA coursework and the CDA Credential Process. The books are available from the [Council for Professional Recognition](#).

1. *CDA Competency Standards* (for your identified CDA setting)
2. *Essentials for Working with Young Children*, 3rd edition
3. *Essentials Workbook*, 3rd edition

1. Read and complete the following in the book *CDA Competency Standards*:

- a. Introduction and Part One – Earning the Child Development Associate Credential
- b. Part Two – The Child Development Associate Competency Standards
- c. Part Three – Additional Information and Resources

2. Read and complete the following in *Essentials for Working with Young Children* and the accompanying *Essentials Workbook*:

CDA Competency Standard I: To plan a safe, healthy learning environment.

CDA Functional Area 1 Safe:

- *Essentials for Working with Young Children* – Read the Introduction and Chapter 1 “Safe”.
- *Essentials Workbook* – Read and complete the activities in the Introduction and Chapter 1 “Safe”.

CDA Functional Area 2 Healthy:

- *Essentials for Working with Young Children* – Read Chapter 2 “Healthy”.
- *Essentials Workbook* – Read and complete activities in Chapter 2 “Healthy”.

CDA Functional Area 3 Learning Environment:

- *Essentials for Working with Young Children* – Read Chapter 3 “Learning Environment”.
- *Essentials Workbook* – Read and complete activities in Chapter 3 “Learning Environment”.

CDA Competency Standard II: To advance physical and intellectual competence.

CDA Functional Area 4 Physical:

- *Essentials for Working with Young Children* – Read Chapter 4 “Physical”.
- *Essentials Workbook* – Read and complete activities for Chapter 4 “Physical”.

CDA Functional Area 5 Cognitive:

- *Essentials for Working with Young Children* – Read Chapter 5 “Cognitive”.
- *Essentials Workbook* – Read and complete the activities for Chapter 5 “Cognitive”.

CDA Functional Area 6 Communication:

- *Essentials for Working with Young Children* – Read Chapter 6 “Communication”.
- *Essentials Workbook* – Read and complete activities for Chapter 6 “Communication”.

CDA Functional Area 7 Creative:

- *Essentials for Working with Young Children* – Read Chapter 8 “Self”.
- *Essentials Workbook* – Read Chapter 8 “Self”.

CDA Competency Standard III: To support children’s social and emotional development.

CDA Functional Area 8 Self:

- *Essentials for Working with Young Children* – Read Chapter 8 “Self”.
- *Essentials Workbook* – Read and complete activities for Chapter 8 “Self”.

CDA Functional Area 9 Social:

- *Essentials for Working with Young Children* – Read Chapter 9 “Social”.
- *Essentials Workbook* – Read and complete activities for Chapter 9 “Social”.

CDA Functional Area 10 Guidance:

- *Essentials for Working with Young Children* – Read Chapter 10 “Guidance”.
- *Essentials Workbook* – Read and complete activities for Chapter 10 “Guidance”.

CDA competency Standard IV: To build productive relationships with families.

CDA Functional Area 11 Families:

- *Essentials for Working with Young Children* – Read Chapter 11 “Families”.
- *Essentials Workbook* – Read and complete activities for Chapter 11 “Families”.

CDA Competency Standard V: To ensure a well-run, purposeful program.

CDA Functional Area 12 Program Management:

- *Essentials for Working with Young Children* – Read Chapter 12 “Program Management”.
- *Essentials Workbook* – Read and complete activities for Chapter 12 “Program Management”.

CDA Competency Standard VI: To maintain a commitment to professionalism.

CDA Functional Area 13 Professionalism:

- *Essentials for Working with Young Children* – Read Chapter 13 “Professionalism”.
- *Essentials Workbook* – Read and complete activities for Chapter 13 “Professionalism”.

CDA Subject Area 7: To observe and record children’s behavior.

CDA Subject Area 7 doesn’t have required reading, however, it is helpful to review the sections “Observing Children With the Setting” and “Documenting Children’s Learning” in chapter 12 “Program Management” in *Essentials for Working with Young Children*.

CDA Subject Area 8:
To understand principles of child development.

CDA Subject Area 8 does not have required reading, however, it is helpful to review chapters 4-10 in *Essentials for Working with Young Children*.

