

# A Journey of Learning

*"The number one unique factor of this teaching program is the mentoring - it is life changing. Having Anita come to my center monthly encouraged me to a new level of professionalism and was also educational to the entire staff."*

Laurie Schroeder, 1999 CDA graduate,  
Sunshine Daycare and Preschool

*"The CDA program has not only benefited our teachers, but the program has reached out to the children and their parents. Our staff have become more professional, they have obtained a confidence level that we have not seen in the past."*

Cindy Morris, 2003 CDA graduate and  
Center Director, Little Dickens Learning  
Center

*"One of the most important things I've learned this year is how a child learns. To watch play and think about their thought process and what 'wheels' are turning. Through doing this, I've built the most incredible relationships with the children. This journey has helped me form relationships that I could never have imagined having in my life!"*

Leanne Ricci, 2000 CDA graduate,  
Harvard Park Children's Learning Center



## Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential Training Program



*Learning, Changing, Growing  
as a Childcare Professional*

Blue Prints for Learning  
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Blue Prints for Learning

## What is the CDA?

The Child Development Associate (CDA) is a nationally recognized credential in early childhood education offered by the Council for Professional Recognition, a national organization committed to improving the quality of childcare throughout the United States.



## Who qualifies for the CDA?

National eligibility requirements for individuals interested in pursuing the CDA are:

1. 18 years or older
2. High school diploma or GED
3. At least 480 hours of work experience with the designated age group
4. Currently working in a licensed childcare program

Working on-site with students, the CDA training program has experienced the quality improvement benefits of working with the childcare program as a whole. Therefore, we give enrollment preference to care givers from childcare sites interested in overall quality improvement and NAEYC Accreditation.

*The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) sponsors the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs, an independent accrediting system designed to examine the total childcare program with emphasis on the quality of interactions among teachers and children and the developmental appropriateness of the curriculum.*

## How does CDA Training work?

Blue Prints for Learning's CDA program (formerly taught at the Spokane Regional Health District) offers an expanded program of classroom training and on-site support to child-care staff to prepare them for their final CDA Assessment. The unique components of our CDA Training Program and our ten year history of responding to the needs of the child-care community have made us a program that works for those working in childcare.

Our training approach is learner-centered, focusing on the strengths, interests and needs of each student. Instructors strive to build a supportive, individualized relationship with each student working with their particular childcare setting and age group.

The program is also focused on supporting the application of learning in the childcare setting through regular on-site visits that provide classroom-based feedback with both written and photo documentation. This approach models the learning principles the students are learning to use with children. "Learning to see learning" is a key student goal that runs throughout the CDA Training Program.



## What are the program components?

The CDA Training Program is a unique blend of classroom and hands-on learning components including:

1. 120 hours of formal training during one nightly class per week for one year
2. Bi-monthly on-site mentoring to help apply child development knowledge into day-to-day practice with young children
3. Opportunity to network with other childcare professionals and share experiences
4. Quarterly Childcare Directors' Group
5. Periodic opportunities for grant-funded childcare training and resources

**New CDA Class  
beginning spring  
2010**

**Questions?**

For more information, contact:  
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