Eager-to-Learn
Online classes for people who care for children

EAGER-TO-LEARN
CDA Learning Community Packet

“Eager-to-Learn offers convenient, excellent courses which satisfy CDA training”
Welcome to the Eager-to-Learn Online CDA Learning Community

The National CDA provides you with a quality education into the needs of children and families in your programs. The Eager to Learn Online CDA Learning Community focuses on providing not only learning in each of the eight content areas but provides additional assistance in how to create a portfolio, resource guide and other CDA requirements. When obtaining your CDA training via an Eager to Learn - learning community you will be completing training and will be receiving support as you move through the courses. Support will come via your instructors, other students and by your learning community adviser who will follow along with each course helping you to maintain success throughout the entire program with an end result of being ready for your adviser observation.

The Eager-to-Learn CDA Learning Community is a quality, convenient and affordable training option offered completely online through facilitated courses with peer networking and quality, personalized instructor interaction. Learning community membership is open to childcare providers from throughout the U.S.

For the cost of $700 (approximately half the price of traditional training courses) participants will benefit from 120 hours of high-quality training lead by experienced, knowledgeable and certified instructors. As a part of the CDA learning community, students will receive opportunities for support and coaching between classes, networking sessions and webinars.

The learning community model has been very successful. Eager-to-Learn has been hosting the Online Directors Credential for several years and here is what some of the directors say about their experience in attending a learning community.

“All the instructors were great and so helpful in the director community. They were all very effective in their teaching styles and helpful if any questions came up. I’d do it again in a heartbeat!”

“Having the peer support was very important. Knowing that there were others out there that were going through the same things that I am and being able to share our knowledge with each other was a very important part of the courses.”

“I really liked the online experience. It was great not having to leave my office or spend time and money traveling. The chat sessions got right to business – and we could come to the chat early to socialize if we wanted, which people often did!”
Eager-to-Learn CDA Learning Community Timeline

Application Submission Open............................................................................................................July 10, 2013
Enrollment Closed..................................................................................................................................October 16, 2013
(Enrollment closes when we have 15 students enrolled)
Courses Begin...........................................................................................................................................October 30, 2013
Ends.........................................................................................................................................................August 13, 2014

Eager-to-Learn CDA Learning Community Fees

Program Fee with Application –
this will be applied towards your course fees and holds your spot in the community......................$100.00
Total Cost for CDA Learning Community...............................................................................................$700.00

The Non refundable $100.00 Program Fee holds your place in the Learning Community. This fee is due after the approval of your application by the Learning Community Coordinator. Course fees must be paid in full at least 10 days prior to the start of the Learning Community or arrangements must be made for a payment plan.
Your overall cost of the community covers supports for CDA candidates including advising on CDA preparation, tutorials, portfolio preparation*, practice on tests as well as establishing communities of practice.
*A completed portfolio is a required part of receiving your CDA

Eager-to-Learn CDA Learning Community Course Schedule

All Chats Wednesdays from 8:00-8:45

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>CDA</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Child Development</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>October 30, November 6, 13, 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus on Core Concepts</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>December 4, 11, 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOLIDAY BREAK</td>
<td></td>
<td>January 8, 15, 22, 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECIPS</td>
<td>5&amp;3</td>
<td>CDA Support Time with Learning Community Coordinator – January 30 through February 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intro to Special Needs</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>February 19, 26, March 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tipping the Scales</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>March 12, 19, 26, April 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
<td></td>
<td>April 16, 23, 30, May 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creating Cultural Connections</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>May 14, 21, 28, June 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overview of Curriculum</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>June 11, 18, 25, July 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment: Gathering &amp; Using Info</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>July 9, (No chat 16), 23, (No chat 30), August 6, 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>National CDA Course</td>
<td>6</td>
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Learning Community Certification Policy

Purpose: To empower students to join the registry and take control of their professional development learning records
Policy: All students participating in an Eager-to-Learn Learning Community (CDA, MNCCC or Directors) will receive one certificate at the completion of the entire community. Students will not be given individual certificates after every course is completed. If a student needs to prove the completion of course for licensing or other purposes, they will have to access their learning record on the Minnesota Center for Professional Development registry website or their MNStreams training transcript.

MNStreams – https://www.mnstreams.org/
Introduction to Child Development - CDA Content Area 8
Chat Sessions: Wednesdays from 8-8:45 p.m. CST October 30, November 6, 13, 20
This course will provide an overview of the red flags for developmental delays in young children, strategies for sharing your developmental concerns with families. Students will receive useful brochures describing typical child development and red flags for atypical development and other resource information.
Instructor: Tammy Oveson

Focus on Core Concepts – CDA Content Area 3
Chat Sessions: Wednesdays from 8-8:45 p.m. CST December 4, 11, 18
Join us as we recognize the interrelationship between physical, social, emotional, mathematical, language and literacy development in young children in this four hour course. Learn how early experiences shape the development and our role in supporting children. Strategies for early childhood providers are an integral part of this course.
Instructor: Tammy Oveson

Not by Chance: Quality in Practice for the Early Childhood Indicators of Progress – CDA Content Area 5 (12 hrs) & 3 (4 hrs)
Chat Sessions: Wednesdays from 8-8:45 p.m. CST January 8, 15, 22, 29
This training is focused on the Early Childhood Indicators of Progress, Minnesota’s Early Learning Standards. The ECIPs offer the latest research on common developmental expectations for children ages 3 to 5 and a framework for helping them get there. The Early Childhood Indicators of Progress for Children Ages Birth-3 will be incorporated into this training as they become available.
Instructor: Judy Bissen

Introduction to Children with Special Needs – CDA Content Area 8
Chat Sessions: Wednesdays from 8-8:45 p.m. CST February 19, 26, March 5
The incidence of varying disabilities and special needs continue to increase and most child care providers will have the opportunity to care for children with special needs. This workshop will review some of the red flags for developmental concern including challenging behavior, some of the diagnosis most commonly seen such as autism and resources to support inclusive care. The workshop will also review the referral for screening process and the resources in early intervention.
Instructor: Judy Bissen

Tipping the Scales – CDA Content Area 1
Chat Sessions: Wednesdays from 8-8:45 p.m. CST March 12, 19, 26, April 2
Nutrition and physical activity play key roles in children’s development. Child care providers have an opportunity to help children develop a healthy lifestyle. Topics will include MyPlate, the Activity Guidelines for children and resources for providers and families alike.
Instructor: Judy Bissen

Creating Cultural Connections in Child Care – CDA Content Area 4
Chat Sessions: Wednesdays from 8-8:45 p.m. CST April 16, 23, 30, May 7
Families and communities provide the foundations children need to be successful. This course will at the resources and reflective skills providers need to work successfully with diverse families. Methods to find and promote the strengths of families as a way to promote child development will also be discussed.
Instructor: Judy Bissen

Overview of Curriculum – CDA Content Area 2
Chat Sessions: Wednesdays from 8-8:45 p.m. CST May 14, 21, 28, June 4
This session series focuses on early childhood curriculum and the domains of development, elements of effective curriculum, and the role of authentic assessment in gathering information about children's development and in adapting curriculum to meet children's needs.
Instructor: Tammy Oveson
Assessment: Gathering and Using Information – CDA Content Area 7
Chat Sessions: Wednesdays from 8-8:45 p.m. CST June 11, 18, 25, July 2
This training does not focus on a specific assessment tool but rather provides background for choosing and using assessment tools to inform practice. The training is intentionally structured with time between sessions for practice and reflection. When programs have already identified a particular assessment tool/system, trainers may reference the particular assessment. However, this training is not intended to promote or train participants to use one specific assessment. This training is designed to demystify the process of assessment so that participants will be able to employ a variety of documentation strategies in order to gather information and then use that information in ways that support learning.
Instructor: Tammy Oveson

National Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) Process: The Final Steps – CDA Content Area 6
Chat Sessions: Wednesdays from 8-8:45 p.m. CST October 16, 23 & February 5, 12 & July 9, 16
This course is geared toward participants who have fulfilled their National CDA training requirements and are interested in receiving in-depth learning on the steps remaining in the credentialing process. Participants will draft and receive feedback on several key pieces of documentation required in the CDA process—including the professional resource file and the six competency goal statements—as well as prepare for the final observation, verification visit and final exams.
Instructor: Debra Pierce

CDA Instructors

Debra Pierce is associate professor of Early Childhood Education at Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana. Ivy Tech is one of the nation's largest single-accredited statewide community college systems, with more than 125,000 students enrolled annually. Her professional background has always involved children. First she was a primary grades teacher in the Chicago Public School system and then a teacher of 3- and 4-year-olds in a National Association for the Education of Young Children accredited preschool for 15 years. She has also taught English and English Composition courses at the high school and college levels. Debra is a CDA advisor, as well as a registered CDA council representative, and a certified parent educator for the national Parents as Teachers program. She has spent the last 10 years dedicated to the success of those pursuing the CDA credential and is the author of "The CDA Prep Guide: The Complete Review Manual for the Child Development Associate Credential" (Redleaf Press).

Judy Bissen is an Early Childhood Family Education teacher in Minnesota as well as an adjunct faculty member at a technical college in Wisconsin. She received her Master's Degree in Professional Development at the University of Wisconsin at La Crosse. She has over twenty years of experience working with children and their families in a variety of child care settings as well as in parent education. She believes that it is important for us to recognize our personal strengths as well as the strengths of the students we teach. It is through our strengths that we can learn how to overcome challenging situations and grow in all areas.

Tammy Oveson
Tammy Oveson has been a licensed family child care provider in central Minnesota for over 20 years. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in child development from Concordia University and is currently a student in Concordia's Master of Arts program with an emphasis on early childhood education. She is on the executive board of the Minnesota Licensed Family Child Care Association, holds a current child development associate credential, and is a National Association for Family Child Care accredited provider. Tammy's passion is promoting professionalism in child care. She feels that providers can never get enough training for the very important job they do. As a long time Eager-to-Learn student herself, she is excited to be an instructor.
Eager-to-Learn CDA Learning Community Payment Plan

Installment Payment Plan

Total fees for the Community will be $700.00; Eager-to-Learn students may make these in installments following the plan below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Installment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Amount Due</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pay with application</td>
<td>Date of Application Approval</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 of 4</td>
<td>October 23, 2013</td>
<td>$150.00 ($250.00 Total Due by October 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 of 4</td>
<td>January 1, 2014</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 of 4</td>
<td>April 9, 2013</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 of 4</td>
<td>June 4, 2013</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
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Payment and Cancellation

- Registration and payment for the CDA Community must be completed by contacting Brian Wray (contact information below)
- Payment must be made by Visa, MasterCard or Discover credit or debit card. Checks are not accepted.
- A student is not successfully registered for a course until payment is received. Any unpaid student attending a course will be automatically removed.
- Students may withdraw and receive a full refund up until two weeks prior to the start of a course. A student who withdraws from a course after the two week deadline will not receive a refund.
- Late payments will result in a 10.00 administration fee
  - To set up a payment plan contact Brian Wray at:
    E-mail: brianw@childcareawaremn.org
    Phone: 651-290-9704 ext 105

To Apply for the CDA Learning Community, click [here](#)
CDA Scholarship Information

CDA Professional Development Scholarship Program

The CDA Professional Development Scholarship Program improves the quality of early childhood programs by helping National Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential* students who are caring for infants and toddlers.

To qualify for a scholarship, you must:

- Have completed 30 hours of training toward your CDA
- Join the Center for Professional Development Registry at: http://mncpd.mncpd.org/registryapp/Default.aspx
- Develop a learning plan with our professional development coordinators
- Be currently employed as a licensed family child care or center-based provider or be a Family, Friend Neighbor (FFN) provider in the final stages of the licensing process. (Licensor has been to home for initial visit)
- Be caring for or willing to care for children participating in Minnesota’s Child Care Assistance Program
- Take your CDA classes through your local Child Care Resource & Referral agency or through the online learning program, Eager-to-Learn, http://eagertolearn.org
- Be willing to sign the commitment contract.

How do I find out if I qualify?

- After receiving your application, you will be sent an award or a denial letter.
- If you are awarded, your learning plan will be reviewed by staff to see how much funding you will be awarded.
- Depending on the time frame you have to complete your CDA, you may be awarded for the balance of your classes or just a partial amount.
- We will pay Eager to Learn or your local Child Care Resource and Referral directly so you will not have to pay for the classes in advance and get reimbursed.

For more information, please contact Holly Meuers at: or 651-290-9704 ext. 109 or hollym@childcareawaremn.org.