

Preschool Endorsement



Early Childhood Endorsement Program (ECEP)

To meet the need for a highly qualified early childhood workforce, the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) has established the Early Childhood Endorsement Program (ECEP). This program is designed to provide a comprehensive foundation of knowledge for working with children of specific ages (infants and toddlers or preschool). The ECEP is a collaboration between the VDSS, the Virginia Community College System (VCCS), and the Community College Workforce Alliance (CCWA).

The VDSS Early Childhood Endorsement Program offers four endorsements:

1. Infant/Toddler Endorsement
2. Preschool Endorsement
3. Early Childhood Endorsement I – Creativity Series (ECEI)
4. Early Childhood Endorsement II – Health, Safety, Nutrition Series (ECEII)

VDSS Early Childhood Endorsements can be valuable as:

- ✓ Entry-level credentials for employment in the field of early childhood
- ✓ Demonstration of foundation of knowledge working with infants and toddlers/preschool children
- ✓ Supplements to a child-related degree or credential that does not include instruction on infants and toddlers/preschool children
- ✓ Supplements to a degree or credential outside the field of early childhood

Successful completion of courses can also fulfill requirements for teaching licensure renewal, annual licensing, training for the **Child Development Associate (CDA)** credential, and professional development for those participating in Virginia Quality.

Participants have two options by which to achieve a Preschool Endorsement:

OPTION 1 - VDSS SPONSORED COURSES

The Preschool Endorsement requires completion of the following 12 classroom - based or online courses. The courses can be taken in any sequence.

- ❖ Ages and Stages of Development for Preschool Children
- ❖ Child Abuse and Neglect: Recognition and Reporting
- ❖ Creating an Age-Appropriate Learning Environment for Preschool Children
- ❖ Early Childhood Theorists (Online or Independent Study)
- ❖ Exploring Brain Development
- ❖ Guiding the Behaviors of Preschool Children
- ❖ Health Screening for Child Care Professionals
- ❖ Nurturing Productive Partnerships with Parents
- ❖ Observation and Recording
- ❖ Planning Appropriate Activities for Preschool Children
- ❖ Preventing Injuries in the Child Care Environment
- ❖ Reframing Discipline

To achieve the Preschool Endorsement:

1. **Register** to take component courses (see list above)
To register go to: www.ccwa.vccs.edu (click on VDSS Child Care Training) or contact the Community College Workforce Alliance at (804) 523-2298 or VDSSclasses@ccwa.vccs.edu.
2. **Complete** all required courses
3. **Complete** course assessments within 4 to 6 weeks of completing the online course
 - Part I is online, through CCWA, and is multiple choice/true-false. Participants must receive a **passing score of 70% or higher on all courses.**
 - Part II is an independent study demonstrating application of content in a classroom setting
4. **Submit** the following materials to CCAVA:
 - ✓ Letter grade for Part I (a print out of your score, that includes your name clearly stated)
 - ✓ Completed written assessment for Part II (for grading)
 - ✓ Preschool Endorsement Application Form
 - ✓ \$10.00 processing fee for **each** course submitted for grading, **check or money order payable to CCAVA, or through [PAYPAL](#)**. Fees due with forms and assessment materials.

Make a copy of ALL materials for your own records BEFORE submitting to CCAVA

- ✓ **Mail all materials to:**

**CCAVA - Endorsement Program
804 Moorefield Park Drive, Suite 101
Richmond, VA 23236**

For additional information, contact Jodi Roberts at 804.285.0846, or email jodir@va.childcareaware.org.

OPTION 2 - COLLEGE CREDIT COURSE

Upon successful completion of CHD 120, Introduction to Early Childhood Education, individuals become eligible for the VDSS Preschool Endorsement.

To achieve the Preschool Endorsement:

1. **Complete** CHD 120, Introduction to Early Childhood Education. You must receive a passing grade to qualify for the endorsement.
2. **Complete** Preschool Endorsement Application Form
3. **Submit materials to CCAVA:**
 - ✓ Preschool Endorsement Application Form
 - ✓ A copy of your college transcript indicating completion of the course or a Letter of Completion from your instructor.
 - ✓ \$10.00 processing fee, **check or money order payable to CCAVA, or through [PAYPAL](#)**

Make a copy of ALL materials for your own records BEFORE submitting to CCAVA

- ✓ **Mail all materials to:**
CCAVA - Endorsement Program
804 Moorefield Park Drive, Suite 101
Richmond, VA 23236

