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, and training for the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential.
Participants have two options by which to achieve an Early Childhood Endorsement II - Health, Safety, and Nutrition Series:

**OPTION 1 - VDSS SPONSORED COURSES**

The Early Childhood Endorsement II requires completion of the following 12 classroom-based or online courses. Successful completion of each course provides 4 clock hours of training credit. The courses can be taken in any sequence.

- Chronic Health Conditions in Early Childhood
- Controlling Communicable Illness in the Early Childhood Classroom
- Creative, Healthy Cooking with Young Children
- Developing Healthy Habits in Young Children
- Ethics for Early Childhood Professionals
- Food Safety in the Child Care Environment
- Health Makes a Difference in Early Childhood
- Making Meal Times Fun in the Early Childhood Classroom
- Management of Injuries and Acute Illness in Early Childhood
- Nutritional Guidelines in Early Childhood
- Safety in a Quality Early Childhood Environment
- Teaching Young Children about Health, Safety and Nutrition

To achieve the Early Childhood Endorsement II - Health, Safety, and Nutrition Series:

1. **Register** to take component courses (see list above)
   - To register go to: [http://ccwatraining.org/childcare/](http://ccwatraining.org/childcare/) (click on VDSS Child Care Training) or contact the Community College Workforce Alliance at (804) 523-2298 or [VDSSclasses@ccwa.vccs.edu](mailto: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)
   - Early Childhood Endorsement II - Health, Safety, Nutrition Series 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 the Professional Development Team at 804.285.0846, or email PDteam@va.childcareaware.org.
OPTION 2 - COLLEGE CREDIT COURSE


To apply for the Early Childhood Endorsement II - Health, Safety, and Nutrition Series:

1. **Complete** EDU 235, Health, Safety and Nutrition Education or HLT 135, Child Health and Nutrition. You must receive a passing grade to qualify for the endorsement.

2. **Complete** Early Childhood Endorsement II - Health, Safety, Nutrition Series Application Form

3. **Submit materials to CCAVA:**
   - Early Childhood Endorsement II - Health, Safety, Nutrition Series 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

For additional information, contact the Professional Development Team at 804.285.0846, or email PDteam@va.childcareaware.org.
**APPLICATION FORM**

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Choose option 1 or 2, and then complete the information in the payment box.

- **OPTION 1: VDSS Sponsored Courses** (Indicate courses completed; check all that apply.)
  - There is a $10.00 processing fee for EACH completed course.

  - Chronic Health Conditions in Early Childhood
  - Controlling Communicable Illness in the Early Childhood Classroom
  - Creative, Healthy Cooking with Young Children
  - Developing Healthy Habits in Young Children
  - Ethics for Early Childhood Professionals
  - Food Safety in the Child Care Environment
  - Health Makes a Difference in Early Childhood
  - Making Meal Times Fun in the Early Childhood Classroom
  - Management of Injuries and Acute Illness in Early Childhood
  - Nutritional Guidelines in Early Childhood
  - Safety in a Quality Early Childhood Environment
  - Teaching Young Children about Health, Safety and Nutrition

- **OPTION 2: Completion of College Course** - EDU 235 OR HLT 135

  - EDU 235, Health, Safety and Nutrition Education  OR  HLT 135, Child Health and Nutrition

Please indicate which materials are included (check all that apply) and mail with application to:

- $10.00 processing fee for EACH completed course (check or money order): payable to CCAVA
  
  $10.00 x _______________ (# of courses) = __________________________ Enclosed

- I have received a scholarship from __________________________

- PAYPAL OPTION: I have submitted payment through PAYPAL (include a copy of your receipt)
  http://va.childcareaware.org/child-care-providers/professional-development/endorsement-program/

- Completed assignments and printout of letter grade for all courses checked above (OPTION 1)

- College transcript or letter from instructor indicating completion of CHD 145 (OPTION 2)

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

For additional information, contact the Professional Development Team at 804.285.0846, or email PDteam@va.childcareaware.org.