



## **The Child Development Associate (CDA) Training Program**



# SCHOOL READINESS STARTS HERE.



## What is a CDA?

The Child Development Associate or CDA is a person who is able to meet the specific needs of the children and who, with parents and other adults, works to nurture children's physical, social emotional and intellectual growth in a child development framework. The CDA Credential is awarded to child care providers and home visitors who have demonstrated their skill in working with young children and their families by successfully completing the CDA assessment process.

## What is the CDA Training For Infant/Toddler, Preschool and Family Child Care Providers?

Educators that have completed prerequisites and have submitted the necessary paperwork, will be involved in training that includes enrollment into Introduction to CDA. After completion of Introduction to CDA, educators will be involved in training that includes intensive internship and enrollment in the Professional CDA Resource Portfolio course. Educators must have a knowledge of and demonstrate competence in early childhood development, providing a safe and healthy learning environment for children and developing methods for communicating effectively with children, their parents and other staff members.

## About ABCD

A Massachusetts-based non-profit human services organization, ABCD provides low-income residents in the Boston and Mystic Valley areas with the tools, support, and resources they need to transition from poverty to stability and from stability to success. Each year, we've served more than 100,000 individuals, elders and families through a broad range of innovative initiatives as well as long-established, proven programs and services. For more than 50 years, ABCD has been deeply rooted in each neighborhood we serve, empowering individuals and families and supporting them in their quest to live with dignity and achieve their highest potential. For more, please visit [bostonabcd.org](http://bostonabcd.org).

*For more information, please call:*

**Professional Development and  
Career Advancement Coordinator**  
617.348.6295

**Professional Development Assistant**  
617.348.6297

## What prerequisites do I need before enrolling in the training program?

*\*The Urban College of Boston grants credit for ABCD Head Start's CDA courses. These credits can be used towards an Associate of Arts Degree in Early Childhood Education.*

### Course Prerequisites

- Child Growth and Development

### Additional Recommended Course Work

- Another early childhood course (i.e. Observing and Recording, Guidance and Discipline, ECE Curriculum) and a writing course (English 100 or higher)

### CDA Course Work

- Introduction to CDA (3 credits)
- Professional CDA Resource Portfolio (3 credits)
- CDA Internship I and II (6 credits)

### Supervised Internship

- Each student will receive a minimum of eight (8) site visits by an assigned CDA Trainer, and complete required assignments following each site visit.



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## What is The CDA National Credentialing Program?



### The Child Development Associate (CDA) National Credentialing Program

The **Child Development Associate (CDA) program** represents a national effort to credential qualified early care and learning professionals who work with children from birth to age 5.

These early care and learning professionals, Child Development Associates, demonstrate their ability to nurture children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth in a child development framework. Some are center-based educators, others are family child care providers, and still others are home visitors. The proof of their competence is the CDA Credential.

**ABCD Head Start's CDA Training Program** has developed a training program to meet the needs of our educators. Recruitment is done each year to identify educators who desire to earn the CDA Credential. The CDA Training Program works closely with each CDA educator in developing a training plan. This assessment process places the educator in the appropriate level of training.

A CDA can only be earned when an educator completes a specific professional core of courses, supervised internship, and when documentation of their competence has been submitted to the Council for Professional Recognition. Our training program will prepare you to earn a CDA Credential. However, you must make a commitment to your own personal and professional development to achieve this goal.

ABCD Head Start Program

Notes



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DIFFERENCE.**

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**Head Start & Children's Services is a program of  
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