Eligibility Requirements for CDA Candidates

Personal
Be 18 years of age or older
Hold a High School diploma or equivalent
Be able to speak, read, and write well enough to fulfill the responsibilities of a CDA Candidate
Sign a statement of ethical conduct

Setting
Identify a state-approved child development center where you can be observed working as a lead caregiver with a group of (I/T: at least three children, ages birth to 3 years) (Preschool: at least eight children, who are ages 3 - 5). In addition, a center-based program must have: (1) at least 10 children enrolled in the program and (2) at least two caregivers who work with the children on a regular basis.

Experience
You must have had and be able to document, within the last five years, at least 480 hours of experience working with children (I/T: ages birth to three, including each of the sub-groups: Young Infants (birth - 8 months), Mobile Infants (9 - 17 months), and Toddlers (18 - 36 months)). (Preschool: ages 3 - 5).

Education
You must have completed, within the past five years, 120 clock hours of formal child care education. Your completion of this Internet course will fulfill this requirement.

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