

CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE (CDA)

DELAWARE INSTITUTE FOR EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD
Portfolio Preparation Cohorts

The Child Development Associate (CDA) is a **nationally-recognized credential** for early childhood professionals. Applying for the CDA requires **120 hours of education, 480 hours of work experience, and a professional portfolio.**

To support Delaware's early childhood educators, **DIEEC developed three models to assist educators** in completing their professional portfolio and becoming ready to apply for the CDA credential.

STRUCTURED MODELS:

"Cohorts" are organized groups of educators learning together. A cohort style promotes peer learning and social support.

Cohort models included: 12 classes organized around the professional portfolio components, as well as a review of content from the 120 hours of education; personalized coaching; office hours; peer networking; CDA support materials (textbook, workbook, competency book)

Model 1. Comprehensive cohort option:

- designed to support educators completing the required 120 hours at the same time
- structured across a 6-month period.

Model 2. Fast-paced, comprehensive cohort option:

- designed to support educators who already completed the required 120 hours of education
- structured across a 3-month period.

Model 3. Self-paced, non-cohort option:

- designed to support educators who prefer to work independently at their own pace
- includes CDA support materials (textbook, workbook, competency book) and access to monthly office hours

DIEEC IMPLEMENTATION:

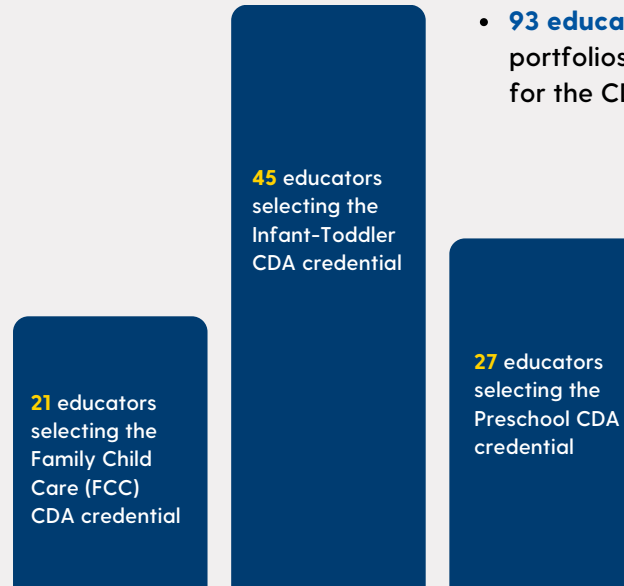
- **189 educators** enrolled in DIEEC's CDA Professional Portfolio Preparation Program
- Facilitated **10 CDA portfolio preparation cohorts** and supported **2 groups** of educators through the **self-paced** option
 - **2 cohorts** specific to **Spanish-speaking** educators
 - **2 cohorts** specific to **family child care (FCC)** educators



"...the cohort collaboration quickly became an opportunity to engage with other providers and work in unison toward the same professional goal. Participating in a CDA cohort has been an empowering experience."

DIEEC OUTCOMES:

- **93 educators** completed their portfolios, became ready to apply for the CDA credential



"Even though I have been in early childhood education for many years, I have learned new information that will enable me to be a better teacher/director."