

## How Can I Get More Information?

### Call Child Care Resources of Rockland



Business Hours: Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5:00pm  
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Find Us on



*Child Care Resources of Rockland is a contract agency of the County of Rockland, the NYS Office of Children and Family Services, NYS Education Department, NYS Department of Health and the United Way of Rockland County. Additional funding for Special Needs Services is provided by Family Support Services, Mental Health Services and the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities. CCRR is supported by Rockland Community College.*



Child Care Aware® of America Member

## Membership

Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc. is a membership organization made up of over 2,000 individuals. We urge you to become a member to support our efforts; our strength is largely due to your support. With your paid membership, you receive the following benefits: access to the Helen Bernstein Memorial Library, special rates for workshops and conferences, and our newsletter *Child Care Community Network*.

## Mission

Our mission is to promote, support and enhance the healthy development of all children by:

- Providing resource and referral services for families seeking accessible, affordable, quality early childhood and school age care and education;
- Offering training, support and resources to the early care and education workforce as well as public and private schools;
- Connecting with business leaders and public officials to emphasize the value of quality child care to the economic vitality of Rockland County;
- Advocating for increased investment in quality child care and education;
- Collaborating with strategic partners to enhance our collective abilities to address the needs of the community now and in the future.

# Child Development Associate (CDA)

## Training Program

# CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

## What is CDA?

The Child Development Associate (CDA) is a national credential issued to providers of child care who work with children from birth to age 5.

## What Does “CDA” Signify?

A CDA is an individual who has demonstrated competence in working with children and their families. They have completed 120 hours of formal training, been observed in their classroom and have passed a written exam. It is available to those who work with infants, toddlers, or pre-schoolers in a center, nursery school or family child care program.

## What Does a CDA Know?

- How to establish and maintain a safe, healthy learning environment.
- How to advance children’s physical and intellectual competence
- How to support social and emotional development and provide positive guidance
- How to establish positive and productive relationships with families
- How to ensure a well-run, purposeful program responsive to family’s needs
- How to maintain a commitment to professionalism

## Who Issues the Credential?

The Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition (CECPR) in Washington, DC has credentialed more than 300,000 CDAs across the country.

## Who is Eligible?

To be eligible you must:

- be 18 years or older
- hold a high school diploma or equivalent
- have 480 hours of experience working with children within the past three years
- have 120 hours of formal child care education and training in the required areas

## How Can I Get the CDA in Rockland County?

There are three methods for achieving the CDA. If you are interested in earning college credits while going for the CDA, Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc. (CCRR) has a program in collaboration with Rockland Community College (RCC)

The second option is to take our not-for-credit course. It involves 120 hours of training taken one night a week for a year. In addition to class work, it includes classroom observations and preparation of a resource file. This course is also offered in Spanish or bi-lingual (Spanish/English) specialization.

The third method is to take an E-CDA course. It involves independent work on-line and monthly meetings with a facilitator.

## What is the Process?

Call CCRR 425-0009 x456 to get an application. CCRR will assist you over a one year period with any questions or problems with CDA process. Upon completion of the training you will submit an application to CECPR. You will take a written test and a Quality Enhancement Specialist will be selected for a classroom observation and final assessment.

## Who Recognizes the Credential?

This is a national credential that meets the requirements for Head of Group as defined by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. It is recognized by child care organizations as the first step on the ladder of professional development in the field of early childhood education.

## Is the CDA Equivalent to a College Degree?

No. However, it is a first step in your professional development. After completing the course you may decide to continue on in a college program.

## How Much Does it Cost?

The entire cost is about \$2,300. This amount includes the course, the books and the final assessment fee.

## Is Financial Assistance Available?

If you meet family income eligibility requirements, there are a number of opportunities for financial assistance. State grants are available for CDA course work and assessment fees for those who work in registered or licensed programs.