



YOU CHOOSE!

- ◆ Earn 40 clock hours toward your Child Development Associate* with *EVERYDAY TLC* Learn-At-Home Continuing Education Program and the Nutrition Education & Child Care Food Program
- ◆ Earn State Licensing Hours
- ◆ Do Both!!

Learn-At-Home Training for Child Care Professionals

Over the course of a one-year subscription to EVERYDAY TLC, you can receive eight Learn-at-Home training modules, which will count toward 40 hours of your CDA. These same training modules have been approved for one hour each (total of 8 per year) toward your state licensing hours for family child care providers in the following states: AK, AL, AR, CO, IA, MA, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, TX, WY (16 hours)*

It's Easy and Convenient:

- Step 1:** Review the continuing education self test and professional article in this issue of *EVERYDAY TLC*.
- Step 2:** Sit back, relax, and read through your issue of *EVERYDAY TLC*.
- Step 3:** Do the assignment as described in the test. Write your responses to the questions on the sheets (unless otherwise indicated). Please note: Photocopies of the test sheets will not be accepted. You must mail the original test pages from your *EVERYDAY TLC* issue!
- Step 4:** Remove your completed test sheets from *EVERYDAY TLC*. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number in the space provided on the test sheets. Place the test sheets and a check or money order for the fee in an envelope addressed to:
- EVERYDAY TLC*
P.O. Box 180
Wilmington, NC 28402

Your certificate of completion of continuing education credits will arrive within 3-4 weeks.

- Cost:**
- ◆ CDA \$80 for all 8 tests (40 CDA clock hours)
 - ◆ State Licensing Hours \$5.50 per test
- OR SAVE MONEY BY: removing completed test sheets and saving them until you have completed all 8. Send them to the above address with a \$22.00 check or money order. (for state licensing hours only)

Note: The *EVERYDAY TLC* Learn-at-Home Training only counts toward 120 clock hours of training needed for your initial CDA application. The training does not count toward CDA renewal hours.

Questions: Please call: 1-800-677-6644.

Test months in 2006: January, February, April, June, July, August, September, December

*The Child Development Associate(CDA) credential is awarded to those caregivers who have completed 120 clock hours of formal child care education, with at least 10 hours in each of eight categories. There are requirements for hours working with children, the creation of a resource file, written competencies, and a formal observation and assessment. For more information on the CDA program, please contact The Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition at 1-800-424-4310 or on the web at www.cdacouncil.org.

Read the newsletters and the professional article
and answer the questions below.

1. Carefully reread page 1 of the Week 3 newsletter. Take a look at your program, area by area, from a child's point of view. Describe the safety features you have in each area and anything you would do to make the area even safer.

◆ INDOOR PLAY SPACE _____

◆ KITCHEN _____

◆ BATHROOM _____

◆ OUTDOOR PLAY AREA _____

2. Now reread the professional article. Look at your program from a parent's point of view.

Name three things about your program that you think would appeal to parents.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Name three things that you might improve. Tell how you would improve them.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

3. Ask a parent what her child likes best about your program. What does the parent like the best?
Write down the answers.

4. What are the ethnic backgrounds of the children in your program?

5. Describe how you make sure that each family knows that you respect and appreciate their ethnic heritage.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

CDA TRAINING CERTIFICATE

Content Area # 1: Planning a Safe and Healthy Learning Environment

TAKE A FRESH LOOK AT YOUR PROGRAM



In the Week 3 newsletter, we suggested that “it’s a good idea to get down on the floor and see things the way your little ones do,” in order to see if the learning environment is safe. It is also a good idea to look at your program from a parent’s point of view from time to time. The National Network for Child Care* provides parents with a checklist to use when visiting family child care homes. You can use it too.

PHYSICAL FACILITY/ HEALTH, SAFETY

- ▲ The home is reasonably clean and orderly.
- ▲ No children have soiled diapers or training pants.
- ▲ Detergents, cleaners, and medicines are in a locked cabinet.
- ▲ Electrical outlets are covered with safety caps.
- ▲ Household items such as knives, scissors, and curling irons are stored out of reach of children.
- ▲ Toys and equipment are in good repair with no sharp edges, splinters, or loose parts.
- ▲ There is a quiet area that can be darkened for naps with clean bedding for each child.
- ▲ The toileting area is easy for the children to get to with potty chairs, safe steps, or whatever is needed.
- ▲ There is an area of the home where children can play out of the way of other family members.
- ▲ There is a fenced, outdoor play area. The caregiver can see all areas of the yard easily.
- ▲ The home is warm, cheerful, and inviting.

A “HEALTHY” PROGRAM

Family child care providers should provide all the same safety, warmth, and learning opportunities as a child care center, but do it in a home environment. So it is also useful to look at what the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) suggests parents look for if their child is between the ages of 3 and 6 and attends a child care center, preschool, or kindergarten program. Here are NAEYC’s 10 signs of a good program.

1. Children spend most of their day playing and working with materials or other children. They do not wander aimlessly, and they are not expected to sit quietly for long periods of time.
 2. Children have access to various activities throughout the day. Look for assorted building blocks and other construction materials, props for pretend play, picture books, paints and other art materials, and table toys such as matching games, pegboards, and puzzles. Children should not all be doing the same thing at the same time.
 3. Teachers work with individual children, small groups, and the whole group at different times during the day. They do not spend all their time with the whole group.
 4. The classroom is decorated with children’s original art work, their own writing with invented spelling, and stories dictated by children to teachers.
 5. Children learn numbers and the alphabet in the context
- The natural world of plants and animals and meaningful activities such as cooking, taking attendance, or serving snack provide the basis for learning activities.
6. Children work on projects and have long periods of time (at least one hour) to play and explore. Worksheets are used little if at all.
 7. Children have a chance to play outside every day. Outdoor play is never sacrificed for more instructional time.
 8. Teachers read books to children individually or in small groups throughout the day, not just at group story time.
 9. Curriculum is adapted for those who are ahead as well as those who need additional help. Recognize that children’s different backgrounds and experiences mean that they do not learn everything at the same time in the same way.
 10. Children and their parents look forward to school. Parents feel secure about sending their child to the program. Children are happy to attend; they do not cry regularly or complain of feeling ill.

So take a fresh look at your program as the new school year starts. You’ll see a lot of great things and probably a few that need correcting.

* (Kees-Martin, S. (1981). Checklist for family day care homes (HE-5-81). Reno, NV: University of Nevada Reno, Cooperative Extension)
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