

## **Delaware First Qualifications for Early Care and Education Positions**

Early Care and Education Center Position Qualifications (Refer to *Delaware: Regulations for Early Care and Education and School-Age Centers*)

**Early Childhood Intern** - means a staff member who performs direct child care functions and related duties and works under the supervision of an early childhood teacher and the direct observation of at least an early childhood assistant teacher or early childhood caregiver. This individual can be alone with children as specified in these regulations and meets the qualifications specified in these regulations.

### OPTION A-

Age Requirement: Must be at least 16 years of age

Education Requirement: (1) successful completion of at least three college or university credits in either child development or early childhood education **OR** (2) successful completion of at least 15 clock hours of quality assured training in early care and education

Experience Requirement: No experience necessary

### OPTION B-

Age Requirement: Must be at least 15 years of age

Education Requirement: Currently attending a vocational or technical high school's three-year program in early childhood education or a traditional high school's career pathway program in early childhood with verification of enrollment

Experience Requirement: No experience necessary

**Early Childhood Assistant Teacher** - means a staff member who performs direct child care functions and related duties, works under the supervision of at least an early childhood teacher and assists in the implementation of curriculum. This individual may supervise early childhood interns, early childhood aides, volunteers, and substitutes and meets the qualifications specified in these regulations.

Age Requirement: Must be at least 18 years of age

Education Requirement: High school diploma or its equivalent recognized by Delaware Department of Education **AND** one of the options below:

- OPTION A - TECE 1
- OPTION B - Successful completion of a traditional High School Early Childhood Career Pathway
- OPTION C - Six (6) college credits with three in early childhood education and three credits in child development

Experience Requirement: Minimum of six (6) months experience (to include 500 hours) working with children birth through second grade in a group setting

**Early Childhood Teacher** - means a staff member who performs direct child care functions and related duties, works under the supervision of an early childhood administrator or early childhood curriculum coordinator, and is immediately responsible for the direct care, supervision, guidance, and education of children at a center. The early childhood teacher implements the curriculum and daily activities for a group of children. The early childhood teacher may supervise early childhood assistant

teachers, early childhood caregivers, early childhood interns, early childhood aides, volunteers, and substitutes and meets the qualifications specified in these regulations.

**Age Requirement:** Must be at least 18 years of age

**Education Requirement:** High school diploma or its equivalent recognized by Delaware Department of Education **AND** one of the options below:

- OPTION A - TECE 1 and TECE 2
- OPTION B - Valid CDA
- OPTION C - Delaware Department of Labor's Early Childhood Apprenticeship Program
- OPTION D - Nine (9) college credits of which three (3) must be in early childhood education, three (3) in child development, and three (3) in early childhood positive behavior management
- OPTION E - Vocational/technical high school three year early childhood program
- OPTION F - Montessori Infant and Toddler Full/Associate Credential OR Montessori Early Childhood Full/Associate Credential
- OPTION G - Successful completion of a one year early childhood diploma program from a two year college
- OPTION H - Bachelor's degree or Associate degree in early childhood education, child development, elementary education, elementary special education, or child psychology with six (6) credits in child development or early childhood education
- OPTION I - Bachelor's degree or Associate degree in any area of study/major with six (6) credits in child development or early childhood education

**Experience Requirement:**

With Education Option A-G: Minimum of twelve (12) months experience (to include 1,000 hours) working with children birth through second grade in a group setting.

With Education Option H: Three (3) months of supervised student teaching birth through second grade OR six (6) months of experience working with children birth through second grade in a group setting.

With Education Option I: Six (6) months of experience working with children birth through second grade in a group setting

**Early Childhood Curriculum Coordinator** - means a staff member who works under the supervision of the early childhood administrator and may be responsible for the direct care, supervision, guidance, and education of children at the center. The early childhood curriculum coordinator develops and evaluates curriculum and implements or monitors implementation of curriculum and daily activities for children at the center. This individual may supervise early childhood teachers, early childhood assistant teachers, early childhood caregivers, early childhood interns, early childhood aides, volunteers, and substitutes and meets the qualifications specified in these regulations.

**Age Requirement:** Must be at least 20 years of age

**Education Requirement:**

- OPTION A - High school diploma or its equivalent AND fifteen (15) college credits in early childhood education to include six (6) credits in early childhood curriculum development and planning.
- OPTION B - Associate degree in early childhood education, child development, elementary education, or elementary special education AND fifteen (15) college credits in early childhood education to include six (6) credits in early childhood curriculum development and planning.
- OPTION C - Associate degree in any other area of study/major AND fifteen (15) credits in early childhood education to include six (6) credits in early childhood curriculum development and

planning.

- OPTION D - Bachelor's degree in early childhood education, child development, elementary education, or elementary special education or child psychology AND fifteen (15) credits in early childhood education to include six (6) credits in early childhood curriculum development and planning.
- OPTION E - Bachelor's degree in any other area of study/major AND fifteen (15) credits in early childhood education to include six (6) credits in early childhood curriculum development and planning.

**Experience Requirement:**

With Education Option A: Minimum of twenty-four (24) months experience (to include 2,000 hours) working with children birth through second grade in a group setting With Education Option B:

Minimum of three (3) months of supervised student teaching birth through second grade AND three (3) months of experience working with children birth through second grade in a group setting OR six (6) months of experience working with children birth through second grade in a group setting

With Education Option C: Minimum of twelve (12) months experience (to include 1,000 hours) working with children birth through second grade in a group setting

With Education Option D: Minimum of three (3) months of supervised student teaching birth through second grade OR six (6) months of experience working with children birth through second grade in a group setting

With Education Option E: Minimum of six (6) months of experience (to include 500 hours) working with children birth through second grade in a group setting

**Early Childhood Administrator** - means a staff member with direct responsibility for the center's total program of services provided to children and their families, and including when applicable, the administrative aspects. The early childhood administrator approves curriculum, and when also serving as the early childhood curriculum coordinator develops and evaluates curriculum and implements or monitors implementation of curriculum and daily activities for children at the center. The early childhood administrator supervises all staff and meets the qualifications specified in these regulations.

**Age Requirement:** Must be at least 21 years of age

**Education Requirement:** Bachelor's degree or associate's degree from a regionally accredited college or university to include fifteen (15) college credits in early childhood education with 3 credits from each of the following areas: child development/learning, environment/curriculum, social-emotional development, observation/assessment; and one three-credit course in an early childhood elective

**Experience Requirement:** Minimum of eighteen (18) months experience (to include 1,500 hours) experience working with children ages birth through second grade in a group setting