

CAREER LEVELS

Professional preparation and continued professional development is vital to improving the quality of early care and learning environments. The Georgia Professional Development System (GaPDS) is designed to capture educational attainment in early childhood education (ECE), ongoing professional learning, and experience working with young children. In the framework below, these elements are combined to determine a career level on a continuum from Level I to Level XII.

<p>Level I Professionals beginning their career in early care and education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ High school diploma or GED; and ◆ 0 to 3 years of early care and education experience with young children; and ◆ 0 to 30 clock hours of state approved/accepted training 	<p>Level V Professionals beginning their formal education in the early care and education field:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Technical Certificate of Credit (TCC) in Early Childhood Education or Child Development 	<p>Level IX Professionals with a Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) teaching certificate in the Early Care / Early Education field</p>
<p>Level II Professionals who have been in the early care and education field for a few years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ High school diploma or GED; and ◆ 2 or more years of early care and education experience with young children; and ◆ 31 to 60 clock hours of state approved/accepted training 	<p>Level VI Professionals who have earned an intermediate– level, formal, education credential in the early care and education field:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Technical College Diploma (TCD) in Early Childhood Education or Child Development 	<p>Level X Professionals with an advanced ECE degree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Masters degree (MA/MS/MEd) in ECE or Child Development or ◆ Non-ECE Masters with an: ECE Associate, TCD, or containing ECE/ECE-related coursework (15 semester or 25 qtr. hours) or PSC Cert Level 4 with FLD702, 708, 808 or 870
<p>Level III More experienced professionals in the early care and education field:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ High school diploma or GED; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 3 or more years of early care and education experience with young children; plus ◆ 61 or more clock hours of state approved/accepted training or ◆ 15 semester or 25 quarter hours in ECE coursework 	<p>Level VII Professionals with a two-year degree in the early care and education field:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Associate degree (AA/AS or AAS/AAT) in Early Childhood Education or Child Development or ◆ Montessori Diploma 	<p>Level XI Professionals with a Specialist ECE degree :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Specialist Degree (EdS) in Early Childhood Education or Child Development or ◆ Non-ECE Specialist with an: ECE Associate, TCD, or containing ECE/ECE-related coursework (15 semester or 25 qtr. hours) or PSC Cert Level 5 with FLD702, 708, 808 or 870
<p>Level IV Professionals with a credential in the early care and education field:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Unrelated Degree (Associate, Bachelor's, Masters or Doctorate in non-ECE-related field) or ◆ Current Child Development Associate (CDA) or ◆ PSC-certified Paraprofessional (FLD691) 	<p>Level VIII Professionals with a four-year degree in the early care education field:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Bachelor's Degree (BA/BS) in Early Childhood Education or Child Development or ◆ Bachelor of Psychology or Social Work paired with an: ECE Associate, ECE TCD, Montessori diploma, TCC, CDA or containing ECE/ECE-related coursework(15 semester or 25 qtr. hours), or ◆ Other Non-ECE Bachelor's, combined with an ECE Associate , ECE TCD, or containing ECE/ECE-related coursework (15 semester or 25 qtr. hours) 	<p>Level XII Professionals with Doctoral degrees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Doctoral Degree (PhD/EdD) in ECE or Child Development or ◆ Non-ECE Doctorate with an: ECE Associate, TCD, or containing ECE/ECE-related coursework (15 semester or 25 qtr. hours) or PSC Cert Level 6 with FLD702, 708, 808 or 870

While many professionals may hold degrees in fields other than an Early Childhood Education (ECE) the Career Levels recognize specific academic preparation in ECE. Degrees that are not in ECE, however, may be deemed ECE-related if they reflect the body of knowledge valued in the field. An ECE - related degree is defined as “a degree containing a minimum of 15 semester or 25 quarter hours of ECE - related coursework.” Please see the ECE - Related Coursework Listing.