Child Development Permits are required for service in most publicly funded child development programs including all state preschool programs. Authorization to serve in after school programs can be added to Child Development Permits. Child Development Permits are available at various levels – Child Development Assistant Permit (optional), Child Development Associate Teacher Permit, Child Development Teacher Permit, Child Development Master Teacher Permit, Child Development Site Supervisor Permit, and Child Development Program Director Permit—each with increasing coursework preparation and commensurate authorization or responsibility. The current child development permit structure is based on a career ladder concept; thus one individual could be counted in one or more child development permit categories.

Applicants for Child Development Permits apply directly to the Commission and are required to complete specific courses and other requirements. Programs, such as those offered in two- or four-year institutions of higher education, may apply to have a sequence of courses pre-approved by the Commission and may then verify that an applicant has completed the program. This process, known as Verification of Completion (VOC), helps expedite the processing time of applications. Currently, there is a total of 40 institutions with VOC approval – 29 are community colleges and 11 are four-year institutions.

Child Development Permits Issued: 2008-09 to 2012-13

Each year, approximately 8,000 Child Development Permits (new) are issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission). Another 4,000 permits are renewed each year. While there was a decrease of about 2,300 (or 24 percent) in new permits, there was an increase (by 30 percent) in the renewals in the past five years.

There was a steady decline for all types of new permits, ranging from 33 percent for Child Development Associate Teacher permits to 12 percent for Child Development Teacher permits. In spite of the decreases, the proportion of the permits stayed fairly steady for Child Development Associate permits: 31 percent in 2008-09 and 28 percent in 2012-13; Child Development Teacher permits: 19 percent in 2008-09 and 22 percent in 2012-113; and Child Development Site Supervisor permit: 21 percent in 2008-09 and 22 percent in 2012-13. For the following three types of permits – Child Development Assistant permits, Child Development Master Teacher permits, Child Development Program Director – the proportion stayed very steady at 16 percent, 7 percent, and 6 percent, respectively.

For more information about Child Development Permits: http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/CREDS/child-dev-permits.html

Note: Data include initial permits only; do not include renewals.