

Early Childhood Credentials/Permits Issued by the Commission

California issues three types of credentials and permits that authorize service with young learners: 1) Early Childhood Specialist Credentials, 2) Early Childhood Special Education Credentials, and 3) Child Development Permits. At one time, California had a standard early childhood credential covering preschool through Grade 3, but it was phased out in the mid 1970s with the passage of the Ryan Act partially due to a desire for hiring flexibility and teacher mobility.

1) Early Childhood Specialist Credential. The Commission issues a Specialist Instruction Credential in Early Childhood Education that requires the educator to hold a basic teaching credential and authorizes teachers to “develop and coordinate curriculum, develop programs, and deliver staff development including age-appropriate teaching methodologies for child development programs and early childhood education programs in grades three and below which are coordinated by school districts or county offices of education. (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educatorprep/standards/ecespec12.pdf>). This credential also authorizes teaching courses in child development in grades K–12 inclusive and in classes organized primarily for adults” (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl529.pdf>). Only one institution currently offers this program and the standards for this program have not been revised since 1992. Ten Early Childhood Specialist Credentials have been issued in the last five years. Information from this leaflet is reprinted below:

“EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION”

Authorizes the holder to develop and coordinate curriculum, develop programs, and deliver staff development including age-appropriate teaching methodologies for child development programs and early childhood education programs in grades three and below which are coordinated by school districts or county offices of education. This credential also authorizes teaching courses in child development in grades K–12 inclusive and in classes organized primarily for adults.

Requirements for the Clear Credential in Early Childhood Education

Individuals must satisfy **all** of the following requirements:

1. Possess a valid California Multiple Subject, Standard Elementary, or General Elementary Teaching Credential
2. Complete a Commission-approved specialist program, including student teaching
3. Obtain the recommendation of a California college or university with a Commission-approved program in the specialist area

Out-of-State Applicants

Out-of-state applicants may apply directly to the Commission for the clear credential if they satisfy **all** of the following requirements:

1. Possess a valid California Multiple Subject, Standard Elementary, or General Elementary Teaching Credential
2. Complete a comparable program, including supervised student teaching appropriate to the specialization at a regionally-accredited institution, approved by the state agency where the

course work was completed. A photocopy of the out-of-state credential is acceptable verification of this requirement, as is a letter from the issuing state's licensing agency. "

2) Early Childhood Special Education. The Commission issues an Education Specialist Instruction Credential in the specialty area of Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE). There are a total of 14 Commission-approved programs offered in this specialty area with a total of 1,142 special education teaching credentials initially issued in the ECSE specialty area over the last five years. Furthermore, an added authorization in ECSE (formerly ECSE Certificate) is also available to individuals who already hold a special education teaching credential, and who complete an ECSE added authorization program through a Commission-approved program sponsor. There are 19 Commission-approved programs for the added authorization in ECSE. There were a total of 275 ECSE added authorizations and certificates issued during the past five years. Both the full specialty area and the added authorization allow the holder to "provide special education services in the area of mild/moderate or moderate/severe disabilities, and traumatic brain injury for students ages birth to pre-K as determined by the local level special education assessment" (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl808ca.pdf>). There are separate program standards for the full specialty area of ECSE issued on the Education Specialist Instruction Credential and ECSE added authorization. Both sets of program standards have recently been revised (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/standards/SpecialEducation-Standard2013.pdf>).

3) Child Development Permit. In 1961, California was one of the first states to subsidize public preschool enrollment. A permit structure was developed at that time and was most recently updated in 1994, with regulations promulgated in 1997. The regulations detail what the personnel at each level are authorized to do and the education and experience requirements for those levels. The current six-level permit structure is based upon a career ladder approach with each level increasing in coursework preparation and commensurate authorization or responsibility. Most coursework is completed by candidates at community colleges.