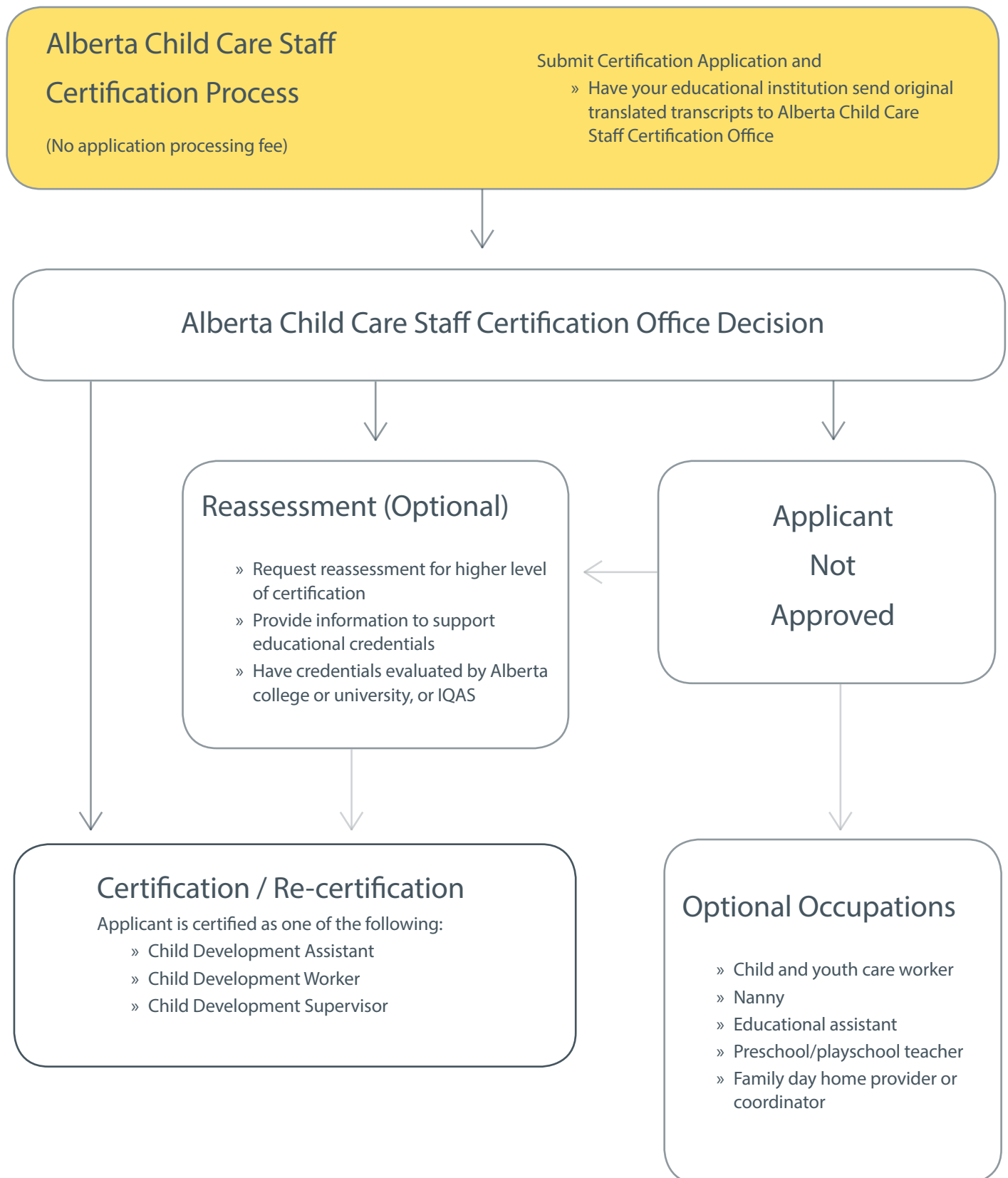


Early Childhood Educator Certification Process



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR (Child Care Worker)

Certification Process

Description of Occupation

Early Childhood Educators (also called Child Care Workers) enhance and support children's development in all areas including: social, physical, intellectual, creative, and emotional. They supervise child care programming and/or work directly with children in providing developmentally appropriate play experiences and environments that ensure children's health, safety and development. They work with young children in licensed day care programs or preschool programs, or in out-of-school care programs for children 6 to 12 years of age.

There are three (3) levels of certification for Early Childhood Educators:

- » Child Development Assistants (formerly Level 1): based on a minimum of 45 hours of post-secondary coursework in early learning and child care.
- » Child Development Workers (formerly Level 2): based on a one-year post-secondary early learning and child care certificate program or equivalency along with a college-level English/French course.
- » Child Development Supervisors (formerly Level 3): based on a two-year post-secondary early learning and child care diploma or equivalency along with a college-level English/French course.

Obtaining Certification in Alberta

The Alberta Child Care Licencing Regulation requires all Early Childhood Educators working in licensed child care programs to be certified. In order to get certified at one of the three (3) levels, you must have completed training in child development or have equivalent training.

To apply for certification you must:

- » Have required level of education (see "Academic Credentials" below)
- » Complete an Application for Child Care Certificate
- » Arrange to have your official educational transcripts sent from your educational institution to the Alberta Child Care Staff Certification Office. Photocopies and faxes are not accepted for certification as a Child Development Worker or Child Development Supervisor. If your transcripts are in a language other than English, the Certification Office will send you a copy to have translated.

The address for the Alberta Child Care Staff Certification Office is:

6th Floor, Sterling Place
9940-106 Street
Edmonton, AB, T5K 2N2

Residency Requirement

You may submit your application for certification before or after arriving in Canada. You do not need proof of citizenship for the application process.



Requirements

International educated Early Childhood Educators must meet the following certification requirements:

1. Academic Credentials

If your training is listed below, you can apply for certification even if you have not been trained in Alberta.

Child Development Assistants must have completed:

- » Alberta provincial government course, entitled Child Care Orientation Course
- » 45 hour (3 credit) college-level course in early learning and child care

Child Development Workers must have one of the following:

- » Arts degree in psychology or sociology - minimum three (3) years post-secondary training
- » Early learning and child care certificate - one (1) year post-secondary training
- » Educational assistant diploma - two (2) years post-secondary training
- » Fine arts degree with early childhood education coursework - minimum three (3) years post-secondary training
- » Human services diploma or degree - minimum of two (2) years post-secondary education
- » Medicine degree - minimum three (3) years post-secondary training
- » Pediatrics degree - minimum three (3) years post-secondary training
- » Physical education degree - minimum three (3) years post-secondary training
- » Recreation therapy diploma or degree - minimum two (2) years post-secondary training
- » Rehabilitation diploma or degree - minimum two (2) years post-secondary training
- » School-age care certificate - one (1) year post-secondary training
- » Science (nursing) degree - minimum three (3) years post-secondary training
- » Social work diploma - two (2) years post-secondary training
- » Teaching diploma or degree - two (2) years post-secondary training

AND

- » At least one college level English/French course

Child Development Supervisors must have one of the following:

- » Education degree in early childhood, elementary or secondary education - general or after degree; must have minimum three (3) years post-secondary training
- » Child and youth care diploma or degree - minimum two (2) years post secondary training
- » Early learning and child care diploma - minimum two (2) years post-secondary training
- » Home science/child development degree - minimum three (3) years post-secondary training
- » Education science degree - minimum three (3) years post-secondary training
- » Social work degree - minimum three (3) years post-secondary training

AND

- » At least one college level English/French course

Notes

When submitting your academic credentials to the Alberta Child Care Staff Certification Office please make sure you to the following:

- » Have your transcripts sent directly from your educational institution. If your educational institution is sending the documents, make a note of it on your application form as your application will not be processed until all transcripts are received

AND

- » If your transcripts are not in English, the Certification Office will photocopy the transcripts received from your educational institution and send them to you. You must have those documents translated into English by a certified translator recognized by the Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council of Canada and submit the original translation to the Certification Office. You can search for a certified translator at www.cttic.org.

If you have completed a relevant educational program but it is not listed above, you have two (2) options:

- » Have your educational credentials assessed through Alberta International Qualifications Assessment Services (IQAS)

OR

- » Apply the early learning and child care course hours you have taken to your certification. Child Development Workers must have 770 hours of equivalent education (including 400 hours of credit practicum in an early learning setting). Child Development Supervisors must have 1,545 hours of equivalent education (including 800 hours of credit practicum in an early learning setting).

OR

- » Complete the Life Experience Equivalency Process which is comprised of writing a challenge exam and being assessed using the Caregiver Interaction Scale to demonstrate knowledge and competencies to a person whose has completed a oneyear certificate in early learning and child care. Successful completion of LEEP will lead to certification as a Child Development Worker.

2. Work Experience

Work experience is not considered in the certification process. However, some Alberta colleges may give you credit for related work experience (called prior learning assessments). Contact your local college for further information about prior learning assessments.

As well, the Life Experience Equivalency Process (LEEP) is available to persons who have the knowledge and skills equivalent to a one-year early learning and child care certificate program. The LEEP will lead to certification as a Child Development Worker.

3. Reassessment

You may request a reassessment if you think your education qualifies you for a higher level of certification. To request a reassessment:

- » Include a completed Application For Child Care Staff Certification Form
- » Include any additional information that might help with the reassessment (for example, course descriptions or updated official transcripts).

If your reassessment results in a higher level of certification, a new certificate will be mailed to you. If not, you may:

- » Have your credentials evaluated by an Alberta college or university to determine their equivalency to a certificate/ diploma/degree program that is eligible for certification
- » Inquire about challenge exams or prior learning assessments with Alberta colleges that offer Early Childhood Educator programs.
- » Apply to the Life Experience Equivalency Process (LEEP), if you have been assessed as a Child Development Assistant and want to be certified as a Child Development Worker. This process gives individuals the opportunity to apply their life experience towards certification. More information can be found by calling Bow Valley College at 403-410-1474 or on its website at www.bowvalleycollege.ca.
- » Have your credentials evaluated by the International Qualification Assessment Services (IQAS) to verify their equivalency towards a program that is eligible for certification.
- » If you would like an assessment through IQAS, you can send your transcripts to:

International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS)
Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry
9th Floor, 108 Street Building
9942-108 Street
Edmonton, AB T5K 2J5
Telephone: 780-427-2655
Fax: 780-422-9734

These assessment options are advisory only and do not guarantee recognition of your qualifications in Canada. The applicant must pay for the assessment costs.

Payment:

- » There is no cost to apply for certification.

English Language:

- » A Canadian Language Benchmark Assessment (CLBA) at level seven (7) in each area (reading, writing, listening/speaking). Information about this assessment can be found online in the Child Care Staff Certification Guide at www.humanservices.alberta.ca/certification.

Average Earnings:

- » Provincial government wage enhancements (up to \$6.62/hr) are available to certified staff working in eligible child care programs that are accredited or working towards accreditation (up to 181 hours per month). The overall average earnings for Early Childhood Educators in 2014, according to Government of Alberta Human Services:

Average hours worked per week	Varies
Average wage per hour (employer-paid wages)	Child Development Assistant: \$12.99 Child Development Worker: \$14.49 Child Development Supervisor: \$16.17
Average wage per hour (with government enhancement)	Child Development Assistant: \$15.13 Child Development Worker: \$18.54 Child Development Supervisor: \$22.79

Notes

Wage enhancement:

The Alberta government provides a wage enhancement for paid, certified staff working in licensed day care and out-of-school programs as well as working as a child care provider under an approved/contracted family day home agency. Funding is paid to a monthly maximum of 181 direct child care hours (including administrative hours for supervisors).

Alberta Child Care Staff Attraction Incentive Allowance: Some day care programs, day home agencies and out-of-school programs may offer staff an incentive allowance to attract child care workers.

There are two (2) allowance options: a \$2,500 allowance or a \$5,000 allowance. Employers must apply for the allowance on your behalf.

Employment Options

You can also consider working in Alberta in related occupations such as:

- » Child and Youth Care Worker
- » Educational Assistant
- » Nanny
- » Preschool/playschool teacher
- » Family day home provider or coordinator

For more information about additional employment options, go to the following website: Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS) Occupational Profiles — Early Childhood Educator (www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo).

Contact Information

Alberta Child Care Certification Office
Alberta Human Services
6th Floor, Sterling Place
9940-106 Street
Edmonton, AB, T5K 2N2

Telephone (toll free; in Alberta only): 1-800-661-9754
Telephone (in Edmonton and outside of Alberta): 780-422-1119
Fax: 780-427-1258
Website: www.humanservices.alberta.ca/certification

Resources

Application Forms and Information:

- [Certification Overview](#)
- [Certification Guide for Child Care Staff](#)

Academic Credentials:

- [Education Equivalency Chart](#)
- [International Qualification Assessment Service \(IQAS\)](#)

Child Care Accreditation Funding:

- [General Information and Forms](#)