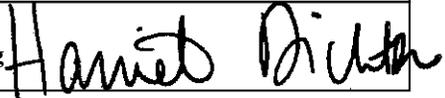




ANNOUNCEMENT: C-08 #05
OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY LEARNING
BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION SERVICES

ISSUE DATE: August 13, 2008
EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately
SUNSET DATE: On-Going

SUBJECT:	Impact of Change in Equivalencies of CDA and CCP Credentials
TO:	Child Care Center Operators, Group Child Care Home Operators and OCDEL Staff
FROM:	Harriet Dichter Deputy Secretary, Office of Child Development and Early Learning 

PURPOSE:

To provide information about the impact of the changed qualification equivalencies for the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential and Certified Childcare Professional (CCP) credential and the impact on staff persons serving as assistant group supervisors in child care centers and primary staff persons in group child care homes after September 22, 2008.

BACKGROUND:

Prior to September 22, 2008, the child care facility regulations state that a CDA credential or CCP credential is equivalent to 15 credit hours from an accredited college or university in early childhood education or child development and one year of experience with children or 30 credit hours from an accredited college or university in early childhood education or child development. Some facilities used these equivalencies to qualify staff persons for the following positions:

- Assistant group supervisor in a child care center in accordance with 55 Pa. Code §3270.36(b)(1) and (3).
- Primary staff person in a group child care homes in accordance with 55 Pa. Code §3280.34(b)(1) and (3).

The Department's new regulations for child care facilities are effective September 22, 2008. In the new regulations, a CDA or CCP credential is equivalent to 9 credit hours from an accredited college or university in early childhood education or child development and one year of experience with children. As a result, the CDA or CCP credential alone will no longer qualify a staff person for a position as an assistant group supervisor or a primary staff person.

DISCUSSION:

In order for the regulation change to not negatively impact on current staff persons, the Department will consider a staff person who qualifies as an assistant group supervisor or primary staff person based on holding the CDA or CCP credential prior to September 22, 2008 to remain qualified for the position.

For Example:

A current staff person obtained the CDA credential and was hired as an Assistant Group Supervisor based on the fact that the CDA is equivalent to 15 credits and one year child care experience under the child care center regulation prior to September 22, 2008. According to the new regulation effective September 22, 2008, a staff person who has obtained a CDA and/or CCP has an equivalent of nine credits and one year child care experience which considered alone does not qualify the person as an Assistant Group Supervisor. The staff person with the CDA who was hired as assistant group supervisor prior to September 22 will still be considered qualified as an Assistant Group Supervisor after September 22, 2008.

After September 22, 2008, staff persons who hold the CDA or CCP credential and are seeking to be qualified as an assistant group supervisor or primary staff person may not use the CDA or CCP credential as the only basis for qualification. The CDA or CCP equivalency may be used toward meeting one of the qualification levels at §3270.36(b)(1)-(5), relating to assistant group supervisors qualifications, and §3280.34(b)(1)-(5), relating to primary staff person qualifications.

NEXT STEPS:

1. OCDEL will share this information with child care center, group child care home and family child care home operators.
2. Bureau of Certification Services staff inspecting facilities will consider staff persons hired prior to September 22, 2008 and serving as an assistant group supervisor or primary staff person based on having a CDA or CCP credential to be qualified for their positions after the new regulations are effective on September 22, 2008.

Comments and Questions Regarding this Announcement Should be Directed to Amanda Dorris at (717) 346-1116 .