

**7.703.54 AN EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER (FORMERLY GROUP LEADER),**

assigned responsibility for a single group of children and working under the supervision of a director, must be at least 18 years of age and must meet at least one of the following qualifications:

**Must meet ONE of the following (from A – J options)  
Updated May 2010**

A – J Options	Degree or college course requirement Grades Must be “C” or Better	Experience Requirement
A. A Bachelor’s (4 year) degree.	Major area of study for each bachelor’s degree shall be in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Special Education, Family and Child Development or Child Psychology.	No additional experience required.
B. A Bachelor’s (4 year) degree in an unrelated area.	A bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited college or university with a major area of study in any area other than those listed at section 7.702.54, A, 1, a must have two (2) three semester hour Early Childhood Education college courses with one course being EITHER Introduction to Early Childhood Education OR Guidance Strategies.	At least six (6) months (910) hours of verified experience in the care and supervision of four (4) or more children under six (6) years of age who are not related to the individual. Satisfactory experience includes being a licensee of a family child care home; a teacher’s aide or teacher in a child care center, preschool, or elementary school; or work with disabled children.
C. A 2-year college degree in Early Childhood Education.	Sixty (60) semester hours, in early childhood education from a regionally accredited college or university, which must include at least two (3) three-semester hour courses, one of which must be EITHER Introduction to Early Childhood Education OR Guidance Strategies.	At least six (6) months (910 hours) of verified experience, as listed in (B).
D. REMOVED Option unavailable after May 1, 2011.		

E. Twelve (12) semester hours in college-level credits in Early Childhood.	Completion of twelve (12) semester hours from a regionally accredited college or university at either a two year, four year or graduate level, in early childhood education. One of the three (3) semester hour courses must be EITHER Introduction to Early Childhood Education OR Guidance Strategies.	At least nine (9) months (1,395 hours) of verified experience as listed in (B).
F. Completion of a vocational or occupational education sequence in child growth and development.	Completion of a vocational or occupational education sequence in child growth and development.	At least twelve (12) months (1,820 hours) of verified experience as listed in (B).
G. Current certification as a Child Development Associate (CDA) or Certified Child Care Professional (CCP) or other Department-approved credential.	No college course work required.	No additional experience required.
H. Department approved course of training.	Completion of a course of training approved by the department that includes training and work experience with children in a child growth and development program.	No additional experience required.
I. REMOVED Option unavailable after May 1, 2010.		
J. A current Colorado Level I credential OR Two (2) 3 credit college courses with one course being Intro to ECE.	A current Colorado Level I credential; or, Two (2) three-semester hour Early Childhood Education college courses from a regionally accredited college or university at either a two year, four year or graduate level, with one course being EITHER Introduction to Early Childhood Education OR Guidance Strategies.	At least Twenty-four (24) months (3,640 hours) of verified experience as listed in (B).

**\*THE DEPARTMENT WILL ACCEPT EXPANDING QUALITY INFANT TODDLER TRAINING AS AN ADDITIONAL COURSE, WITH VERIFICATION FROM THE TRAINER.**