

7.703.44 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 ONE of the following (from A – I options):**

Effective February 1, 2016

A – I Options	Degree or college course requirement Grades Must be “C” or Better	Experience Requirement
A. A Bachelor’s (4 year) degree.	a. A Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university with a major area of study in one of the following areas: 1) Early childhood education; 2) Elementary education; 3) Special education; 4) Family and child development; 5) Child psychology.	No additional experience required.
B. A Bachelor’s (4 year) degree in an unrelated area.	b. 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 7.702.44, A, 1, and additional two (2) three-semester hour early childhood education college courses with one course being either introduction to early childhood education or guidance strategies.	No additional experience required.
C. Current early childhood professional Credential Level III Version 2.0.	c. Current early childhood professional Credential Level III Version 2.0 as determined by the Colorado Department of Education.	No additional experience required.
D. A 2-year college degree, sixty (60) semester hours.	d. A 2-year college degree, sixty (60) semester hours, in early childhood education from a regionally accredited college or university, which must include at least two (2) 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 satisfactory experience.
E. Twelve (12) semester hours in college-level credits in Early Childhood.	e. Completion of twelve (12) semester hours from a regionally accredited college or university, at either a two year, four year or graduate level, in each of the following subject or content areas in early childhood education and one of the three (3) semester hour courses must be either introduction to early childhood education or guidance strategies.	Nine (9) months (1,395 hours) of verified experience in the care and supervision of four (4) or more children less than six (6) years of age who are not related to the individual.

F. Completion of a vocational or occupational education sequence in child growth and development.	f. Completion of a vocational or occupational education sequence in child growth and development.	Twelve (12) months (1,820 hours) of verified experience in the care and supervision of four (4) or more children less than six (6) years of age who are not related to the individual.
G. Child Development Associate (CDA).	g. Current certification as a Child Development Associate (CDA) from the Council of Professional Recognition, or other Department-approved credential.	No additional experience required.
H. Completion of a course of training approved by the Department.	h. 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.	Twelve (12) months (1,820 hours) of verified experience in the care and supervision of four (4) or more children less than six (6) years of age who are not related to the individual.
I. A current Colorado Level I credential or two (2) three-semester hour early childhood education college courses from a regionally accredited college or university.	i. 1) A current Colorado Level I credential; or, 2) 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, in each of the following subject or content areas with one course being either introduction to early childhood education or guidance strategies.	Twenty-four (24) months (3,640 hours) of verified experience in the care and supervision of four (4) or more children less than six (6) years of age who are not related to the individual. Satisfactory experience includes being a licensee of a Colorado family child care home; a teacher's aide or teacher in a child care center, preschool, or elementary school, plus either.

THE DEPARTMENT WILL ACCEPT EXPANDING QUALITY INFANT/TODDLER (EQIT) TRAINING AND PYRAMID PLUS APPROACH TRAINING AS ADDITIONAL COURSES, WITH VERIFICATION FROM THE TRAINER.