

Early Childhood Education Career Pathways

Group Teacher in Pre-K Classroom

Initial Certificate

- Required Workshops¹²³
- Fingerprint Clearance
- US Citizen/Permanent Resident
- Bachelor's Degree (BA)⁴
- Qualifying score on EAS, CST Multi-Subject, and edTPA⁵
- *Valid 5 years, can be renewed ONE time for 5 more years, MUST lead to getting Professional Certificate*
- **May work as Group Teacher without BA under approved Study Plan IF you have⁷:**
 - Associate's (AA or AS) degree⁵ including practicum OR
 - 90 or more undergraduate college credits⁵ and 1 year teaching in PreK-2nd grade OR
 - BA in other academic subject area AND 1 year teaching Prek-3rd grade
 - Study plan can be valid for 7 years and might be renewed

Professional Certificate

- *All previous requirements for Initial Certificate plus...*
- Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education⁵
- 3 years paid experience as Group Teacher under Initial Certificate
- 1 year of mentored experience⁶
- *Valid permanently with continuing professional development, 100 hours every 5 years*

Child Care Center Director

Initial Certificate

- **Also referred to as the "Provisional Certificate"**
- *All previous requirements for Initial Certificate plus...*
- Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education⁵
- 3 years work experience as a Group Teacher for children under age of 6 years old
- *Valid 5 years, can be renewed up to 2 times for a total of 10 more years under specific circumstances, MUST lead to getting Professional Certificate*
- **May work as a Center Director (MA level) with only BA under approved Study Plan to fulfill Permanent Certificate requirements⁷**
- Study plan can be valid for 7 years, might be renewed

Professional Certificate

- **Also referred to as a "Permanent Certificate"**
- *All previous requirements for Initial Certificate plus...*
- Qualifying score on NYSED School Building Leader (Rev. 2013) Exam: Part 1 & Part 2
- 3 years paid full-time administrative experience
- *Valid permanently with required professional development*
- **May substitute a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership for the Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education**

Certificate requirements are [NYSED regulated](#); however in NYC, child care centers must follow [DOHMH Article 47](#) regulations and are still subject to NYSED.

¹Child Abuse Identification, ²School Violence Intervention and Prevention, ³Training in Harassment, Bullying, Cyberbullying, and Discrimination in Schools: Prevention and Intervention (DASA training). ⁴From [NYSED approved Early Childhood Education program](#). ⁵EAS – [Education All Students](#), CST Multi-Subject – [Content Specialty Test Multi-Subject Birth-Grade 2](#), edTPA – [Educative Teacher Performance Assessment](#). ⁶[Mentoring Experience](#) required during first year of teaching as Group Teacher (BA).

⁷NYC DOHMH Article 47 provision