



## Building a Strong Foundation

### Credentialing Opportunity for Illinois early care and education practitioners

#### Level 1 ECE Credential

Caring and well-trained child care providers nurture our young children while helping them build learning and social skills. Their work helps build stronger families and communities.

The Level 1 ECE Credential is the foundational part of a larger credentialing system (career lattice). This credential can be earned through the Illinois Trainers Network and helps strengthen the important services provided by local child care providers. It can also be earned as the first step into the early childhood profession.

This 48-hour training course was designed especially for:

- Entry-level center staff
- Family child care providers
- Relative, Friend & Neighbor providers
- Parents
- Students assistants
- Home visitors
- Volunteers

The training can build on experiences with young children. It teaches good child nutrition habits, child development, play skills, thinking and social skills, and how to create a safer learning environment. The training offers simple insights, lessons and games that are easily put to use which serve to improve the social, motor and learning skills of the children they serve. Upon completion, the training program can strengthen and stabilize the network of local child care providers that families — and their employers — depend upon.

Participants who complete the training are eligible to receive a Level 1 ECE Credential recognized by the Illinois Department of Human Services. This credential will signify their achievement of this basic awareness level of knowledge and skills across the early childhood competency areas. Courses are available throughout Illinois through local Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) Agencies. Contact your local CCR&R at 877.202.4453.

**Need a central resource to meet all your professional development needs? Visit [www.ilgateways.com](http://www.ilgateways.com) or call Gateways to Opportunity at 888.548.8080.**

# The Level 1 ECE Credential Training

Listed below are topics that will be covered in the Level 1 ECE Credential Training.  
Training opportunities can be found on the Gateways website at [www.ilgateways.com](http://www.ilgateways.com).

## Child Development Overview

An overview of child development for children birth through school-age

## Health Issues for Children in Group Care

Hand washing  
Diapering  
Stress  
Preventing illness  
Cultural practices surrounding health care

## Nutrition Issues for Group Care

Cultural practices surrounding nutrition  
Good nutrition  
Food safety

## Safety Issues for Group Care

Abuse and neglect  
Safety in group care  
First Aid kits  
Emergency preparedness

## Observation and Guidance: Tools for Early Care Teachers

Types of observation  
Observing children to give guidance and discipline

## Learning Happens in Relationships

The Learning Relationship:  
Teachers and Children  
The learning environment, inside and outside  
Including children with special needs

## Family and Community Relationships

Family empowerment and partnerships  
Helping parents to become our partners  
The social world of a family

## Personal and Professional Development

What is a professional?  
Caring for the caregiver  
Support systems  
Boundary issues

## Child Development: Birth to 8 months

How they learn and grow  
Individualizing care

## Child Development: 8 months to 18 months

How they learn and grow  
Toys, games and songs for 8 to 18 month old children

## Child Development: 18 months to 36 months

How they learn and grow  
Learning language  
Learning to think  
Learning to move — big and small  
Learning about feelings

## Preschool Children: Social and Emotional Development

Goals for preschooler's social and emotional learning  
Promoting discipline in preschool children

## Preschool Children: Physical Development

Promoting physical development in preschoolers  
Cross-lateral movement  
Fine motor activities

## Preschool Children: Language Development

Language and literacy  
Using a literature-based curriculum  
Adaptations for children with special needs

## Preschool Children: Cognitive Development

Meaningful learning  
How preschoolers learn  
Numbers, shapes, colors, and science

## School-Age Development

How school-age children grow and learn  
Caring for school-age youth  
Guidance and setting limits

