

Early Childhood Education (725)

Infant/Toddler Level 3 Credential Certificate

About Our Program

The Infant/Toddler Level 3 Credential certificate provides students with a specialized focus on the unique strengths and needs of infants and toddlers with particular focus to children and families that are culturally, linguistically and ability diverse. Students will study the comprehensive development of the young child, birth to three years, with a focus on understanding current brain research and best caregiving practices. Students will research the process of designing infant/toddler environments that are individually, culturally and developmentally appropriate with focus on creating inclusive environments. The program is available for early childhood educators, parents, administrators, and health care professionals. The certificate is 35/36 credit hours, with all the credit hours applying to the Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education. The Illinois Gateway Level Infant/Toddler Level 3 Credential is designed to support movement through the state of Illinois Career Lattice. Gateways credentials are awarded and recognized by the Illinois Department of Human Services Bureau of Child Care and Development. Gateways credentials are symbols of professional achievement and are embedded in the new quality rating and improvement system, ExceleRate Illinois. The Infant/Toddler Level 3 Credential expands on foundational professional knowledge, and supports progression to the Infant/Toddler Level 4 Credential or direct exit into the field.

Nature of Work and Employment

Infant/Toddler Level 3 Credential certificate holders work in licensed child care programs as assistant teachers or for home visiting programs such as Early Head Start or Prevention Initiative programs. Family child care providers are encouraged to use this program to upgrade their own training and preparation.

Special Considerations

Certificate students must demonstrate good physical and emotional health and submit to and pass a criminal background check. To successfully begin the early childhood degree, students must meet the communication requirements. Students must take either Introduction to Early Childhood Education (ECE 121) or Child Growth and Development (ECE 122) and earn a grade of "C" or better to proceed through the early childhood program. They must maintain a "C" or better in all early childhood courses to complete the certificate. A workplace experience is encouraged and may be made available.

Program Contacts

Call Highland at 815-235-6121 for the following program contacts:

- Scott Anderson, Vice President of Business, Technology, and Community Programs
- Melissa Johnson, Coordinator of Early Childhood Education
- Amanda Venhuizen, Student Advisor

Required ECE Courses 26/27 Credit Hours

ECE	121	Intro to Early Childhood Education	3
ECE	122	Child Growth & Development	3
*	ECE	123 Health, Safety, & Nutrition of Young Child	3
*	ECE	125 Assessment in EC Settings	3
*	ECE	202 Curriculum in EC Settings	3
*	ECE	203 Home, School, & Community Relations in EC	3
*	ECE	205 Intro to Infant/Toddler Care & Education	3
*	ECE	213 Inclusive Environments for Infants & Toddlers	3
*	ECE	128 Practicum	
		-or-	2/3
*	ECE	204 Exceptional Child in EC Programs	

Related Required Courses 9 Credit Hours

*		Communications (BUSN 141 or ENGL 121)	3
*	BUSN	125 Mathematics of Business (or College Level Math)	3
	SPCH	191 Fundamentals of Speech Communication	3

Total Credit Hours = 35/36

* Course has a prerequisite. See course description.