

Certificate in Infant/Toddler Care

The Certificate in Infant/Toddler Care (CITC) is a voluntary professional development certificate created through collaboration among Charter Oak State College and Connecticut Charts-A-Course along with local and statewide experts in the field. The certificate is based on core competencies consistent with *Connecticut's Guidelines for the Development of Infant and Toddler Early Learning*. This program of study provides infant/toddler specialists the ability to attain a certificate that demonstrates they have the specialized knowledge and experience to promote positive outcomes for the infants and toddlers with whom they work.

Who will benefit from attaining the Certificate in Infant/Toddler Care?

Anyone who works with infants and toddlers in a licensed child care center or licensed family child care program including teachers in Early Head Start and other publicly funded programs will benefit.

This certificate will also allow you to earn 12 college credits toward an associate's degree in early childhood education.



Who Can Apply?

Applicants must have at least one year's experience working with infants and toddlers in a licensed center-based **or** licensed family day care program **and** have a high school diploma **or** G.E.D and evidence of a current First Aid Certificate and CPR training.

Certificate Education Requirements:

Requirements for the certificate consist of four courses (12 credits), including one (1) course focused on development of infants/toddlers, one (1) course on safe and healthy environment for infants/toddlers, and two (2) courses on creating appropriate learning environments for infants and toddlers.

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| • Infant/Toddler Growth and Development | 3 credits |
| • Early Language and Literacy Development | 3 credits |
| • Methods and Techniques for Infants/Toddlers | 3 credits |
| • Health, Safety and Nutrition | 3 credits |

Completion of all four (4) courses will provide a foundation of practical and theoretical knowledge in all core competency areas for the optimal care and development of infants and toddlers.

Pathways to Meeting Educational Requirements:

Education requirements for the Certificate in Infant/Toddler Care can be met through one or more of the following pathways:

- Approved credit-based course work offered by regionally accredited 2yr or 4yr colleges or universities, or institutions of higher education accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher Education.
- Approved standardized tests including Pathways Exams at Charter Oak State College.
- Non-Collegiate programs approved for credit by Charter Oak State College through the Connecticut Credit Assessment Program (CCAP). For example, approved CCAP courses are offered by All Our Kin, CT Charts-A-Course, and The Hartford Area Child Care Collaborative.
- Holders of the Infant/Toddler Child Development Credential (CDA) issued by The Council on Professional Recognition may receive six credits toward the Certificate in Infant/Toddler Care meeting course requirements for *Methods and Techniques for Infants/Toddlers* and *Health, Safety and Nutrition*.

The Core Competencies of the Certificate in Infant/Toddler Care (based on *Connecticut's Guidelines for the Development of Infant and Toddler Early Learning*):

1. Identify the developmental domains and explain their interrelation with early learning and development.
2. Explain how infants and toddlers grow and develop socially, emotionally, physically, and cognitively in order to create realistic expectations and provide quality early learning experiences for infants and toddlers.
3. Identify how strong attachments are formed and why they are important.
4. Explain the progression of early language development in infants and toddlers and how to apply this knowledge to create optimal environments for language and literacy development in infants and toddlers.
5. Explain how to create environments that foster health and safety practices and understand the importance of good nutrition in the healthy development of infants and toddlers.
6. Explain how to build positive relationships with families; to work collaboratively with families; and to value the family as the primary caregiver and educator of their young children.

For more information:

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