

## Be a Smart Consumer of Child Care Training

Your professional development as an early educator and child care provider is important. Meeting state requirements for annual in-service training is one part of your professional development. If you have Early Educator Certification, you need professional development for certification renewal. And many child care providers need training in First Aid and CPR, playground safety, and age-specific training such as ITS-SIDS or BSAC. In each case, you want to spend your time and money wisely. Make sure the training or professional development that you choose will meet the requirements.

Here is some guidance:

**First aid and CPR instructors** must be certified by a national agency to train North Carolina child care staff. Here is a [list of the agencies](#) approved by DCDEE. The instructor's certification must be current, not out-of-date. If you have questions about a trainer, please contact the national agency to express your concerns and confirm the trainer's status.

**In-service Training-** Child care providers must complete in-service training hours every year. This has usually meant taking "contact hours" of training from an individual, agency or college approved by the North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE). Some training agencies are [exempt](#) (pre-approved by DCDEE), but non-exempt in-service trainers, except those approved for First Aid and CPR training, [must have a current approved outline from DCDEE](#). The trainer should show you the outline form before you secure a training date with them. Here is an example of the [outline form](#). If this outline has not been approved by DCDEE, the training hours may not be counted.

**If you have Early Educator Certification** you need continuing education units (CEUs) or college credits to renew your certification. You still need annual in-service training to satisfy state requirements. Most, but not all, CEUs and college credits for certification renewal will also meet in-service requirements, but "contact hours" of in-service training will not count for certification renewal.

**When would college credits or CEUs NOT count for in-service training?** An example is a college course that is not about content related to one of the [nine topic areas](#) outlined in the Child Care Law. A CEU training on one of those nine topics might not count for in-service training if the trainer or agency has not been approved by the Division.