

REQUIREMENTS FOR  
**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, BIRTH THROUGH AGE 8 OR THROUGH  
GRADE 3 ENDORSEMENT**

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – CERTIFICATION UNIT

ALL TEACHERS SERVING CHILDREN BIRTH THROUGH KINDERGARTEN MUST HAVE A PROVISIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD CERTIFICATE, STANDARD EARLY CHILDHOOD CERTIFICATE, OR AN EARLY CHILDHOOD ENDORSEMENT BY JULY 1, 2012.

An individual who holds the Early Childhood endorsement in combination with an Arizona Cross-Categorical, Emotional Disability, Learning Disability, Mental Retardation, Orthopedic/Other Health Impairment or Severely and Profoundly Disabled Special Education teaching certificate is not required to hold the Early Childhood Special Education certificate.

➤ **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ENDORSEMENT**

The Early Childhood Education endorsement shall be automatically renewed with the certificate on which it is posted.

**Requirements for the Early Childhood Education endorsement are:**

1. Completed **Application for Endorsement**
2. Appropriate Fee (See Application for Endorsement)
3. One of the following:
  - A. A photocopy of your valid Arizona **IVP** fingerprint card (plastic) issued on or after January 1, 2008.
  - OR -
  - B. A photocopy of your valid Arizona fingerprint clearance card (plastic) issued prior to January 1, 2008.

***NOTE:** Effective January 1, 2008, per Arizona State Statute A.R.S. § 15-106, an applicant who applies for a teaching certificate shall submit an **Identity Verified Prints (IVP)** Fingerprint card. "Non-IVP" Arizona fingerprint clearance cards issued on or after January 1, 2008 will **NOT** be accepted.*

4. A valid Arizona **Elementary** or **Special Education** teaching certificate.
5. Option A, B or C:

**Option A:**

  1. Twenty-one (21) semester hours of early childhood education courses from an accredited institution to include all of the following areas of study: 1) foundations of early childhood education; 2) child guidance and classroom management; 3) characteristics and quality practices for typical and atypical behaviors of young children; 4) child growth and development including, health, safety and nutrition; 5) child, family, cultural and community relationships; 6) developmentally appropriate instructional methodologies for teaching language, math, science, social studies and the arts; 7) early language and literacy development; 8) assessing, monitoring and reporting progress of young children;
  2. A minimum of 8 semester hours of practicum including:
    - a. 4 semester hours in a supervised field experience, practicum, internship, or student teaching setting serving children birth through preschool. One year of full-time verified teaching experience with children in birth through preschool may substitute for this student teaching experience. Submit a letter on official letterhead from a District Superintendent or Program Director of a school-based education program or center-based program licensed by the Department of Health Services or regulated by tribal or military authorities to verify teaching experience. - **AND** -
    - b. 4 semester hours in a supervised student teaching setting serving children in kindergarten through grade 3. One year of full-time teaching experience with children in kindergarten through grade 3 in an accredited school may substitute for this student teaching experience. Submit a letter on official letterhead from a District Superintendent or Personnel Director verifying teaching experience.
  3. Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Education Exam.

**One of the following:**

    - a. A passing score on the Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Education (#36) portion of the AEPA.
    - b. A passing score on a comparable Subject Knowledge Early Childhood examination from another state or agency. **Submit the original score report at time of application.**
    - c. A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a notarized copy of the certificate.
    - d. Master's degree from an accredited institution in Early Childhood Education.

REQUIREMENTS FOR  
**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, BIRTH THROUGH AGE 8 OR THROUGH  
GRADE 3 ENDORSEMENT**

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – CERTIFICATION UNIT

**Option B:**

1. Professional Knowledge Early Childhood Exam.

**One of the following:**

- a. A passing score on the Professional Knowledge Early Childhood (#93) portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA).
- b. A passing score on a comparable Professional Knowledge Early Childhood examination from another state or agency. **Submit the original score report at time of application.**
- c. A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a notarized copy of the certificate.
- d. Three (3) years of full-time teaching early childhood education, birth through grade 3. Submit a letter on official letterhead from the District Superintendent or Personnel Director to verify teaching experience.

2. Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Education Exam.

**One of the following:**

- e. A passing score on the Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Education (#36) portion of the AEPA.
- f. A passing score on a comparable Subject Knowledge Early Childhood examination from another state or agency. **Submit the original score report at time of application.**
- g. A current certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a notarized copy of the certificate.
- h. Master's degree from an accredited institution in Early Childhood Education.

3. A minimum of 8 semester hours of practicum including:

- a. 4 semester hours in a supervised field experience, practicum, internship, or student teaching setting serving children birth through preschool. One year of full-time verified teaching experience with children in birth through preschool may substitute for this student teaching experience. Submit a letter on official letterhead from a District Superintendent or Program Director of a school-based education program or center-based program licensed by the Department of Health Services or regulated by tribal or military authorities to verify teaching experience. - **AND** -
- b. 4 semester hours in a supervised student teaching setting serving children in kindergarten through grade 3. One year of full-time teaching experience with children in kindergarten through grade 3 in an accredited school may substitute for this student teaching experience. Submit a letter on official letterhead from a District Superintendent or Personnel Director verifying teaching experience.

**Option C:**

Teachers with a valid Arizona Elementary or Arizona Special Education teaching certificate as of July 1, 2012 meet the requirements for the Early Childhood, Birth through Age 8 or through Grade 3 endorsement with evidence of the following:

1. A minimum of three years infant, toddler, preschool or kindergarten-grade 3 classroom teaching experience within 10 years prior to July 1, 2012;

2. Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Education Exam.

**One of the following:**

- a. A passing score on the Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Education (#36) portion of the AEPA.
- b. A passing score on a comparable Subject Knowledge Early Childhood examination from another state or agency. **Submit the original score report at time of application.**
- c. A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a notarized copy of the certificate.
- d. Master's degree from an accredited institution in Early Childhood Education.