

## DCD Child Care Workforce Standards Section Announcement:

### Lead Teacher Equivalency Options (changes effective January 1, 2008)

Child care lead teachers are required to have the NC Early Childhood Credential (NCECC) OR to meet one of five equivalency options. In conjunction with statutory changes to the rated license rules that went into effect January 1, 2008, several options have been modified and lead teacher assessments are currently done based on the changes. (*Equivalency options are listed at the bottom of the page as they will appear on a revised Education and Equivalency Form.*)

- **Option #1** (testing out) will not be offered again for lead teachers after March 1, 2008.
- **Option #4** has been modified to allow some lead teachers who hold a degree in an “other” field – not Early Childhood/Child Development (EC/CD) related – to qualify if they have six (6) semester credit hours (sch) of very specific coursework \*. This option recognizes the value of a degree and reduces the number of EC/CD semester credit hours they must have to meet lead teacher equivalency.
- **Option #5** will apply to individuals who have completed at least twelve (12) sch of EC/CD-related coursework, whether or not they have a degree.

*For each of these options, additional applicable coursework will count as extra hours.*

\* **Criteria for approving courses in Early Childhood Education and Child Growth & Development for the required six (6) sch in **Option #4** and the specific three (3) sch required in **Option #5**:**

- 1) Course content will emphasize:
  - a) developmental understanding of young children, and/or
  - b) developmentally appropriate educational approaches for the early years
- 2) When course content meets Criteria 1) a) or b) (above) but the course title is not early childhood or age-specific, the course description will indicate that the course focuses on:
  - a) ages between birth and five years, and/or
  - b) the early years, early childhood, preschool, young children, etc.

#### N.C. Early Childhood Credential Equivalency Options:

1.  Have successfully tested out of the Division of Child Development NCECC standardized equivalency test.
2.  Have completed and hold a currently active credential certificate in child development, early childhood education or child care that meets the following criteria: **1)** Nationally accredited and available in all 50 states, **2)** Comprehensive in scope which is inclusive of the following six areas: child growth and development; professionalism; health and safety; creation of appropriate environments that enhance physical, emotional, social and cognitive development; developmentally appropriate learning activities; and working with families, **3)** 120 clock (contact) hours of education and/or training, **4)** Formal observation and/or portfolio assessment, **5)** Standardized written assessment and **6)** Individually earned.
3.  Completed a post-secondary two-year degree or higher in the course of study for Early Childhood, Child Development, Human Growth & Development or Early Childhood Special Education from an accredited\*\* institution of higher education.
4.  Completed a post-secondary two-year degree or higher in any subject area with at least 6 sch in Early Childhood Education and/or Child Growth & Development from an accredited\*\* institution of higher education.
5.  Receipt of 12 sch in the course of study for Early Childhood, Child Development, Human Growth & Development, and/or Early Childhood Special Education programs with at least 3 sch in Early Childhood Education and/or Child Growth & Development from an accredited\*\* institution of higher education.  
(*For any coursework over 10 years old to be eligible for this lead teacher equivalency, you must have earned a degree or be currently enrolled in a degree program.*)

\*\* **Accredited** is defined as: has nationally recognized regional accreditation of institutions of higher education by one of the six regional accrediting agencies.