

**Nebraska Department of Education**  
**Approved Equivalency for Home Visitors**  
**In Early Childhood Programs Operated By Public Schools Districts or Educational Service Units**  
*Depending on the program and specific duties this person may be called a Home Visitor, Family Support Worker, Family Engagement Specialist or similar title.*

**Rule 11 -- Regulations for Approval of Prekindergarten Programs established by School Boards or Educational Service Units and for the Issuance of Early Childhood Education Grants** contains the following regulation concerning the preparation of any home visitor assigned to work as a member of the program team:

*006.05B Home Visitor. Any home visitor will have received at least twelve (12) semester hours of undergraduate or graduate credit in one or a combination of the following areas:*

- i) Early Childhood Education;*
  - ii) Early Childhood Special Education;*
  - iii) Child Development;*
  - iv) Human Services, Nursing, Social Work, Sociology or Psychology, including coursework in the area of family centered practices or child and youth development.*
- or the equivalent in prior training or experience.*

**The Commissioner has determined that one of the options described below will be accepted as “the equivalent in prior training or experience.” Such equivalency must be documented and on file in the office of the head administrator of the district or ESU.**

1. **Child Development Associate Credential (CDA).** A person who holds a **current** Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) issued through the Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition in Washington, DC will be recognized as having met this requirement. For more information about obtaining the CDA Credential, contact the NDE Early Childhood Training Center; 402-557-6880.
2. **Experience.** Experience may count for **up to half** of the 12 credit hour requirement. Therefore, up to 6 credit hours may be allowed for experience as follows: Each 2 years of paid employment in a program serving prekindergarten or kindergarten through grade 2 age children may be granted equivalency for 3 credit hours. This includes experience in licensed preschools, center and family child care, school-based preschools and kindergartens, and Head Start programs. A person who documents 4 years of experience working in such programs can be granted equivalency for 6 credit hours.
3. **Teaching Certificate with K – 6 Elementary Endorsement.** A person who holds a **current** Nebraska Teaching Certificate with a K – 6 Elementary endorsement will be recognized as having met this requirement.
4. **Bilingual.** To meet the needs of the children enrolled in the classroom, a person who is bilingual can be granted equivalency for 3 credit hours.
5. **Sponsored by the NDE Office of Early Childhood and Early Childhood Training Center.** The following options for credit hour equivalency are acceptable for a person not choosing to obtain college credit.

- A. **First Connections.** First Connections is a three credit hour internet-based course for teachers/caregivers interested in learning more about working with infants and toddlers. There is a \$25.00 registration fee. For more information about how to access First Connections, visit the website: <https://www.education.ne.gov/oec/online-training-opportunities/#1644855980659-3f12d395-80eb> or contact Tammi Hicken at the NDE Office of Early Childhood: [tammi.hicken@nebraska.gov](mailto:tammi.hicken@nebraska.gov); 531-207-8917. Participants interested in receiving college credit should contact a Nebraska community college or four-year college for possible college credit options.
- B. **Early Learning Guidelines Domain Training.** Early Learning Guidelines Domain Training is based on the *Early Learning Guidelines Nebraska's Birth to Five Learning and Development Standards*. This resource provides information to assist early childhood teachers and caregivers in promoting the learning and development of young children across seven domains of development and learning. Attendance at each of the seven domain-specific, 6 hour training sessions is required to meet the 3 credit hour equivalent. For more information and to register for Early Learning Guidelines Domain Trainings, visit the Nebraska Early Childhood Professional Record System (NECPRS) website: <https://necprs.ne.gov/home> or contact the NDE Early Childhood Training Center; 402-557-6880.
5. **Home Visitation Core Principles and Practices.** The Home Visitation Core Principles and Practices is a 3 credit hour online training developed by the Nebraska Home Visiting Partnership. The course includes seven training modules which are available at no cost. Each of the modules are ideally completed as part of the overall package. The format includes a supervisor curriculum guide for agency supervisors or coordinators to review the work of their employees and provide additional learning and/or feedback, both individually or as part of a group discussion. For more information and to register for the Home Visiting Core Practices and Principles, visit the website: <https://classroom.answers4families.org/> or contact Charlie Lewis at [clewis4@unl.edu](mailto:clewis4@unl.edu) or 402-472-9815.
6. **District Staff Development Plan.** A district may develop a plan that consists of a unified series or combination of training on early childhood topics that provide knowledge of child development and learning and enhance the understanding and skills of the home visitor. The series or combination of training must be hours equivalent to college coursework. A three credit hour college course typically equates to 45 clock hours. NDE Office of Early Childhood approval is required. For assistance in developing a training plan, contact Carol Burk; [carol.burk@nebraska.gov](mailto:carol.burk@nebraska.gov); 402-429-0094 or Emly Daberkow; [emly.daberkow@nebraska.gov](mailto:emly.daberkow@nebraska.gov); 531-207-9789 or Kelly Jones; [kelly.jones@nebraska.gov](mailto:kelly.jones@nebraska.gov); 531-207-9852.

For additional information about Rule 11, please contact:

NDE Office of Early Childhood: Melody Hobson; [melody.hobson@nebraska.gov](mailto:melody.hobson@nebraska.gov); 402-860-4055 or Kristine Luebbe; [kristine.luebbe@nebraska.gov](mailto:kristine.luebbe@nebraska.gov); 531-510-8101 or Carol Burk; [carol.burk@nebraska.gov](mailto:carol.burk@nebraska.gov); 402-429-0094 or Emly Daberkow; [emly.daberkow@nebraska.gov](mailto:emly.daberkow@nebraska.gov); 531-207-9789 or Kelly Jones; [kelly.jones@nebraska.gov](mailto:kelly.jones@nebraska.gov); 531-207-9852.

NDE Office of Special Populations: Heather Ottoson; [heather.ottoson@nebraska.gov](mailto:heather.ottoson@nebraska.gov); 531-289-8205.

NDE Head Start-State Collaboration Office: Steph Knust; [steph.knust@nebraska.gov](mailto:steph.knust@nebraska.gov); 531-207-9832.