7.702.52 Director Qualifications - Large Child Care Center

The educational requirements for the director or substitute director of a large center must be met by satisfactory completion of one of the following. (All course hours are given in credit hours, but equivalent quarter hours are acceptable.) Official college transcripts must be submitted to the Department for evaluation of qualifications.

Must meet ONE of the following:

Updated October 2012

A and BOptions

Degree or college course requirement

A (1) All individuals with a Bachelor's or Master's degree with a major emphasis in child development, early childhood education, or early childhood special education and all other individuals submitting official transcripts for evaluation and/or completing necessary college coursework to become qualified as a director of a large center must complete a three (3) semester hour course from a regionally accredited college or university, at either a two year, four year or graduate level, in each of the following subject or content areas:

a. Introduction to early childhood professions;

b. Introduction to early childhood lab techniques;

c. Early childhood guidance strategies for children or the Department approved Pyramid Plus training;

d. Early childhood health, nutrition, and safety;

e. Administration of early childhood care and education programs;

f. Administration: human relations for early childhood professions or introduction to business;

g. Early childhood curriculum development;

h. Early childhood growth and development.

i. The exceptional child;

j. Infant/toddler theory and practice; or the Department approved expanding quality infant/toddler training.

A (2) Completion of a course of training approved by the State Department that includes course content listed at Section 7.702.52, A, 1, and experience listed at Section 7.702.52, C.

A (3) Completion of the advanced credential assessment (formerly called the challenge test) through the Colorado office of professional development with a score of eighty percent or better; in addition, experience listed at section 7.702.52, c, is required.

B. All individuals holding a valid approval letter for director qualifications from the Department of Human Services that matches official Department records are required to take, or have taken, the following five (5) three (3) semester hour courses.

(1.) To be completed by May 31, 2012:

a. Infant/toddler theory and practice; or expanding quality in infant and toddler training;

b. The exceptional child;

(2.) One course must be taken every two (2) years from a regionally accredited college or university at either a two year, four year or graduate level in each of the following subject or content areas:

a. Early childhood guidance strategies;

b. Early childhood health, nutrition and safety or child nutrition;

c. Administration: human relations for early childhood professions.

B (2). Official transcripts from a regionally accredited college or university of the one (1) or more of the five (5) courses shall be submitted to the State Department within thirty days of completing each course until all five (5) courses have been completed. Infant/Toddler Theory and Practices and the Exceptional Child must be completed by May 31, 2012.
Directors of public school preschools must attend a Department-approved course of training in nutrition and implementation of rules regulating child care.

B (3). All college course grades for large or small child care center director qualification must be a “C” or better.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

7.702.52 C Director Qualifications - Large Child Care Center
Must meet ONE of the following:
EXPERIENCE OPTIONS

C. The experience requirements for the director of a large center must be met by completion of the following amount of work experience in a child development program, which includes working with a group of children in such programs as a preschool, child care center, kindergarten, or Head Start program:

(1.) Persons with Bachelor's or Master's degree with a major emphasis in child development, early childhood education, or early childhood special education, no additional experience is required.

(2) Persons with a 2-year college degree in early childhood education must have twelve (12) months (1,820 hours) of verified experience working directly with children in a child development program.

(3) Persons with a Bachelor's degree and completion of courses specified in Sections 7.702.52, A, 1-2, must have twelve (12) months (1,820 hours) of verified experience working directly with children in a child development program.

(4) Persons who have no degree but have completed the twenty-four (24) semester hours specified in Section 7.702.52, A, 1-2, must have twenty-four (24) months (3,640 hours) of verified experience working directly with children in a child development program.

(5) Verified experience acquired in a licensed family child care home or school-age child care center may count for up to half of the required experience for director qualifications. To have family child care home experience considered, the applicant must be or have been the licensee. The other half of the required experience must be working directly with children in a child development program.

(6) Experience with five (5) year olds must be verified as follows:

a. If experience caring for five year old children occurs in a child care center classroom, the hours worked shall be counted as preschool experience;

b. If experience caring for five year old children occurs in an elementary school program, the hours worked shall be counted as school age experience.